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BIRTHS.

At Bahar Lodge, the Peak, on the 17th October, the wife of the Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., of a daughter.

At the Government Civil Hospital, on the 19th October, the wife of Captain L. A. C. GORDON, R.A., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, on the 18th October, by the Rev. Rowland F. Cobbold, M.A., ARTHUR HYDE LAY, assistant Japanese Secretary H.B.M.'s Legation Tokio, son of the late William Hyde Lay, H.B.M.'s Consul, Chefoo, to MARION, daughter of JOHN CROALL, Esquire, St. Leonards, Kelso, Scotland.

At the Peak Church, Hongkong, on the 18th October, 1898, by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M.A., HENRY SMITH, of Tientsin, to EDITH JERMAINE LULHAM.

DEATHS.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 8th October, 1898, JAMES MACARTHUR, aged 43 years.

At Chefoo, on the 11th October, 1898, HERMANN ADOLF ROHDY, aged 36 years.

At No. 8, Canton Villas, Kowloon, on the 13th October, ELIZABETH TREAPLAND, wife of Edward WAKEFORD, C.E.

ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The German mail of the 19th September arrived, per N. D. L. steamer Sachsen, on the 18th October (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

General Borgnis-Desbordes has been appointed commander-in-chief of the troops in Indo-China.

In the Interport Cricket Match between Yokohama and Kobe, played at the latter port on the 10th and 11th October, Yokohama scored 113 runs and Kobe 246.

Professor A. Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, who is on a tour round the world with his wife and two daughters, arrived at Yokohama by the *Coptic*, as did the Count of Turin, nephew of the King of Italy.

M. P. Dmitrevsky, the popular Consul-General for Russia at Shanghai, is, we learn from the *N. C. Daily News*, leaving by the *Natal* for Egypt, and M. N. Laptev becomes Acting Consul-General for Russia at Shanghai.

Dr. Ovidio Alpoim, the Chief Justice of Macao, has received a telegraphic communication offering him the appointment of Secretary to his brother, Senhor José Alpoim, the Minister of Justice, and he leaves for Portugal by the next French mail.

A Peking telegram of the 10th October to the *N. C. Daily News* states that an edict is to be issued closing all Chinese newspaper offices and punishing the editors, and another restoring the *Wenchang* essays as the only means of advancement to literary honours and official preferment.

According to the *Independance Tonkinoise* bubonic plague is still prevalent at Nha-Trang, and Dr. Yersin is severely blamed by our contemporary, the introduction of the disease being ascribed to the careless management of the bacteriological institute there, rats and mice inoculated with the disease having been allowed to escape.

Some disquieting news has been received as to the health of the American troops at Manila. In addition to the great amount of malarial and typhoid fever prevailing, malignant smallpox has appeared. On the 10th instant there were 27 cases and ten deaths. The deaths in the Hospital will average about 100 soldiers a month. On October 4th the corpses of six soldiers lay in the marquee, on October 5th four, and on October 10th three.

It appears that the continued existence of the Emperor, presuming him to be still alive, is due to two causes. The first is the fear of the Empress-Dowager, for which H.E. Jung Lu is responsible, that the Foreign Representatives may insist at any moment on seeing the Sovereign to whom they are accredited; and the second is the danger to herself involved in the selection of a successor to poor Kuang Hsu, in view of the jealousies that the selection will inevitably arouse in the Imperial clansmen.—*N. C. Daily News*.

At Shanghai on the 10th October a fire broke out at about twenty minutes past seven in the evening in a godown at the rear of the National Bank of China on Szechuen Road. The fire department answered to the call with their usual promptness, and succeeded in getting the fire under control in a short time. The contents were nevertheless entirely destroyed. The firemen, however, succeeded in preventing the spread of the flames to Messrs. Max Wolff's premises adjoining, which it is satisfactory to learn were little injured. The property in question, which was owned by Messrs. Dent & Co. and occupied by Mr. Aug. Ehlers, was we hear, fully insured.—*N. C. Daily News*.

France, Germany, Belgium, and Holland have agreed on a reciprocal protection of trademarks in China. The Consul of each Power will have jurisdiction in case of prejudicial action by his countrymen against the three other nationalities.

Aguinaldo, the President of the Philippine Republic, has at last been supplied with his official gold collar, which is described in *La Republica Filipina* as follows:—The links represent wreaths of laurel and oak with a "K" in the centre, joined by five-pointed stars. From the point of the collar hangs an eagle with outspread wings and holding in its talons a triangle. The triangle has brilliants at the points, and in the centre is a sun, formed of one large brilliant, with eight rays, also of brilliants. At the back of the eagle is the following inscription:—“Independence, 29.9.98.” The collar is enclosed in a beautiful case of ebony inlaid with sandalwood.

The Kebao coal mine has been shut down, the company working it having apparently come to the end of its resources. The coolies employed, to whom three or four months' wages were due, have been paid by the Government, which now holds the property under hypothecation. The *Arvenir du Tonkin* has a long article on the subject in which it ascribes the failure in the first place to the management having been conducted exclusively from Paris instead of in association with a local committee or board, and in the second place to the expense to which a coal company in Tonkin is put in having to construct its own railways and wharves, while in France facilities of this description are provided independently of the mining companies and cater for their traffic.

By the end of the year, so it is reported, some 50,000 coolies will have been shipped from Siam and the Straits, under special arrangements with the authorities of the Congo Free State, for public works in that country, and for any necessary purpose there. The coolie population in Far Eastern lands is practically inexhaustible; but this step of the Congo Government may have very wide-reaching consequences, if it starts the coolies on a triumphant over-running of the dark continent settlements. Congo natives are most unwilling and inefficient workers. Rhodesia natives only just yielded in time to discipline as miners to prevent a like coolie importation. With a railway to the Upper Congo and plentiful labour, the prospects of the Free State are greatly improving.—*Straits Times*.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 12th October says:—An attempt was made early yesterday morning by a party of foreigners, eight in number, to rescue Huang Chun-hsien from the Taotai's Bureau of Foreign Affairs, on the Bubbling Well Road. It appears that these men went to the Bureau at about two o'clock in the morning, forced their way past the guards, who seemed too frightened to interfere, and demanded to see Huang Chun-hsien. Mr. Drummond was sent for, and on his arrival he asked what they wanted, when they repeated that they desired to see Huang, saying that they had the Empress-Dowager's authority for their action. After a good deal of argument, they were induced to leave without causing any further trouble and without attaining their object. The affair is not taken seriously, and is looked upon as a mere freak.

THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE CRISIS.

(*Daily Press*, 17th October.)

Have the Foreign Ministers at Peking recognised the usurping Government that deposed the Emperor KWANG SU? They were all of them accredited to the EMPEROR, and they can hardly, without instructions from home, recognise another person, not being his legitimate successor, as ruler of the Chinese Empire. Has any official notification of the deposition of KWANG SU been made to the Foreign Governments and their Representatives? The reported death of the Emperor has certainly been denied officially, but has any proof been given that His Majesty is still in the flesh? Have the Foreign Representatives at Peking demanded an audience with the EMPEROR, and, if so, what has been the result? If it is simply announced that KWANG SU, the son of Heaven, and the inheritor of all the dignities appertaining of right to the head of the Ta-tsing dynasty, has been put aside to make room for an ex-Empress Régent, are the Great Powers going to recognise such an act of usurpation? It must be remembered that the recent *coup d'état* at Peking was no popular revolution, no uprising of the sovereign people against an unpopular and arbitrary despot: it was merely a palace cabal against a young monarch who was possessed of a desire to introduce reforms in the administration, and who, so far as any sovereign in China can—owing to their seclusion in the Palace—ever do so, commanded the respect and good will of his subjects. On the other hand, the Empress-Dowager is disliked and her confederate Li HUNG-CHANG is cordially execrated by the bulk of the people. The acts of the Empress since she so rudely grasped the reins of power have been violent and vengeful. All those officials who appeared to be opposed to her views and influence at Court, have been either executed, secretly murdered, sent into banishment, or come pealed to fly for their lives. She has been making a seedtime of slaughter; there will sometime be a harvest of vengeance.

The position thus created in Peking is at once peculiar and difficult, the more so, if, as we may well believe, there is no concert among the Foreign Ministers. A telegram in the home papers stated recently that all the Foreign Ministers save the British and German Representatives, had called on Li HUNG-CHANG to condole with that veteran villain on his downfall, and if this was the fact, it may be taken as a pretty plain proof that concerted action could hardly be expected where such a difference of opinion prevailed as to the demerits of the probable instigator of the revolution. It is true that, in consequence of some attacks on foreigners, the various Ministers went for and insisted upon the free passage of bodies of troops to act as Legation guards, but this was more, perhaps, to ensure their own safety against any mob demonstration than from any idea of using them as a weapon or a threat against the so-called Government. Apparently the different Ministers are, like the rest of the world, for the present waiting events. They may meantime have applied for instructions from home as to how to act: they may be waiting for some overt act that will afford a pretext for outside interference. So far, no such pretext has been afforded, and unless the Powers should decide collectively that it is not for the interests of China nor for those of Powers engaged in trade with her that the Empress Dowager should be permitted to reign in place of the Emperor KWANG SU,

supposing that unfortunate young man to be still alive, is there much likelihood of a cause of action being discovered. No such united action is at all probable, and it is to be feared that we shall soon be treated to the humiliating spectacle of the Foreign Ministers endeavouring to ingratiate themselves with the tools of the woman who has so long pulled the strings at Peking, and who may, through their divisions and greed for contracts, be still enabled to play them off one against the other, until some crisis arrives which will compel a disruption of the venerable but misgoverned empire.

(*Daily Press*, 21st October.)

According to one of our Northern Contemporaries, the Foreign Ministers at Peking have been pressing the Tsungli Yamen for an audience with the EMPEROR, but all their efforts have so far been ineffectual. This was doubtless expected, because, even if alive, every chance of a rescue would be jealously guarded against. Rumour at Peking has it that His Imperial Majesty is confined in a small building on an island in the centre of a large deep lake, within the precincts of the Empress's Palace, from which the bridges connecting with the shore have been cut away. The probability is, however, that the EMPEROR has been removed from this troubous scene and that the EMPRESS DOWAGER and her creatures will wait until the popular excitement has died down and then produce a new puppet from among the stock of Manchu princes and declare him the successor to the late Emperor TUNG CHIH, it being well known that KWANG SU was not the nearest in succession, only it suited the EMPRESS DOWAGER at the time to raise him to the Imperial dignity. Before recognising such a nomination, however, it would perhaps be within the powers of the Ambassadors to demand particulars and proof of the demise of KWANG SU, or, if that Prince were declared still alive, the reasons for his deposition from the Throne. The events of the past few weeks have been so extraordinary, the reactionary measures taken so extreme, the political uncertainty so great, and the dislocation to trade so serious throughout China, that the Representatives of the Treaty Powers are fully entitled to ask for explanations. If they are united in their demands they will be able to compel some more satisfactory replies than those yet vouchsafed. It is to be feared, however, that the Ministers do not move in unison. From what leaks out, it would seem that the British, German, and Japanese Ministers are working in harmony, but the rest of the Diplomatic Corps pursue a different policy. This is to be regretted at a time when united action is so desirable to compel the new régime at Peking to afford them some explanation of the present anomalous state of affairs. It cannot of course be said that there is actually no Government or no Ministers with whom the Foreign representatives can treat, for while the EMPEROR, whose power was always of a rather shadowy character, has mysteriously disappeared, the Tsungli Yamen (with whom the Foreign Ministers have always been in communication), remains practically the same though its personnel has altered somewhat for the worse. If, however, the Ministers of this Yamen should desire to argue that the changes recently made are only such as occur frequently in Western countries, where one party goes out and another comes in, a ready reply will be at hand. Recent events in Peking have not been a party change but a dynastic revolution effected

in order to produce a reversal of policy, such reversal being specially inimical to foreign interests. Nevertheless it may be doubted whether the Ambassadors will refuse to recognise accomplished facts or insist upon a restoration of the Emperor KWANG SU to power, supposing that unfortunate young man to be still alive.

THE INLAND NAVIGATION RULES.

(*Daily Press*, 18th October.)

Recently in the *Times* a telegram from Hongkong appeared stating that all the ports on the West River were "thrown open to trade." We will not stop here to enquire what the author of this understands by "thrown open to trade," but we suspect it is used in the same way and with equal meaning as the expression "to trade with the natives" which figures so prominently in the prospectuses of African companies, chartered or otherwise. That is to say, it means nothing at all! Doubtless it is a fine sounding phrase, calculated to catch the eye of the British public, but if we mistake not the time has come when earnest endeavours must be made to throw some light on the China problem by supplying those at home with reliable information to enable them to judge of the important issue that is at stake in the opening of the inland waters of that country. How important that issue is for all merchants and manufacturers, as well as shipowners, we endeavoured to call attention to in our leader of April 30th last, when we showed that the imposing of an equal tariff on native goods, whether junk or steamer-borne, had a distinct relation to the laying down cost of British goods. It is satisfactory to see that this view of the question receives support from so able an exponent as Mr. BYRON BRENAN, whose opinions all-thinking men will read with attention and interest. Mr. BRENAN, in his trade report for Canton, 1897, says:—"As general carriers between two treaty ports foreign steamers have little chance of competing against junks, especially if the ports happen to be in the same province and at no great distance from each other. Junk-borne goods would probably pay lekin at the port of shipment and discharge and no more. Steam-borne cargo would pay lekin at both ends to the provincial officials, and in addition a full duty and a half to the foreign Customs, merely for the reason that it was carried by steamer. The consequence is that steamers get no native cargo between ports and they must get their freight out of foreign goods." (The italics are ours). "This causes the freight to be so high that the advantage is all on the side of the junks. This practice of placing steamers plying inland under the same regulations as on the coast seriously retards the expansion of domestic trade, and the injury thus caused will become more apparent when, as promised, all inland waters shall have been opened to steam navigation. There is obviously something absurd in regulations which impose an additional tax amounting to 7½ per cent. on all goods carried by steamers, as if steamers were the luxury of the rich who can afford to pay more than persons shipping by junk." It is the more satisfactory to read this as it would not appear to have always been Mr. BRENAN's view in the matter, judging by page 80 of his "State of Trade at the Treaty Ports of China," which says:—"It is only where these junks and steamers come into competition that the preferential tariff concerns us, and it is an open question whether the favoured treatment accorded to junks is injurious to trade in

"general." It is due, however, to the gentleman in question to state that these remarks referred to exports from Canton and that he did on page 52, when dealing with Shashih, expose the differential treatment which is accorded to steamer-borne cargo versus junk; but as far as we recollect, until now, he did not show that foreign goods have to bear a high freight if carried in steamer, due to this cause.

We will now turn to the amended regulations for inland waters which are issued and see how far they purpose placing the carriage of goods under equal taxation. When we say amended regulations we mean as amended by the British Minister and now issued to the various Consuls throughout China. These amendments are practically those which we published in our leader of July 12th and it is evident, as we then said, that "Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD is determined to put up with no evasions or attempted evasions of the concessions granted to Great Britain" as was evinced by the Yamen's insertion of "small," having reference to steamers, &c., &c. It is to be noted, however, that the regulations published as Customs Notification No. 498 in the Shanghai papers under A Regulation, paragraph 2, still stick to the "not of a seagoing type," although there is no mention of this in the circular despatch from the Minister to the Consuls. Doubtless in course of time this will be put right. So far, with the exception noted above, the regulations appear to be satisfactory, but it is of course from the Supplementary Rules published by the Customs that we gain the most valuable information; which is, the interpretation that will be put upon these amended regulations and the manner in which the Customs intend to administer them. These, too, appear to be satisfactory until we come to paragraph 4 of Clause 3, which is not so clear as we should like. It says "Goods brought from the interior merely for transhipment into a seagoing or river steamer are not liable to any duty at the port except the Treaty tariff export duties." Now if by a "seagoing steamer" is meant a vessel going to a foreign country there is, of course, no objection to be raised, nor if it means a coasting vessel can much be said against it, although it seems to point to the continuance of the obnoxious coast trade duty; but with a "river steamer" it is entirely different. If goods carried by them from a treaty port are to be subjected to the levy of a Treaty tariff export duty we are exactly in the same position as we were before except that on arrival at the terminal treaty port, should the goods be going to one, they now pay the half tariff export duty known as "coast trade" duty, but under the regulations they will only pay the same as is levied on goods carried in native craft—a gain so slight as not to be worth considering. Such, we cannot think, is intended to be the reading of this; but, in order that there may be no mistake in the matter, we will illustrate our meaning. A steamer brings a cargo or part cargo of native produce down from Nanning destined for Canton; she must necessarily pass Wuchow en route. Will she have to pay a Treaty tariff export duty because she does so? Before the opening of the waters these goods would have come from Nanning to Wuchow in a junk paying lekin en route and at Wuchow, before entering the port. They then could be shipped by steamer from Wuchow to Canton, paying to the Customs a full and a half duty for that privilege, but as they would be subjected to more lekin at Canton in addition, as Mr. BRENNAN points out,

they never are shipped by steamer, but go by vessels which come under the lekin authorities, which vessels may or may not be towed by steam. It appears to us that some clause providing for "native goods carried from a place inland to a treaty port or vice versa and/or from one place inland to another passing one or more Treaty ports en route" could have been inserted with advantage.

Then comes clause 5:—"Cargo shipped on native boats to be towed by steamers is to be on the same footing as regards duty payment as steamer cargoes." This is satisfactory in so far as all the vessels now towed by launches and which carry cargo will come under the one administration; not as at present, where the launch comes under the Customs and the boat towed under the lekin, with of course the usual results, namely, differential rates. This still leaves it open for launches to tow native boats and drop them just before coming to a treaty port or inland station, in which case the lekin will claim the boat and her cargo as coming under them because it is not towed by a steamer, and in this way maintain a system of differential rates; but as the very wise step has been taken of making the dues and duties collected on domestic trade, available for provincial purposes we do not look to see much of this, neither do we see very well how it could be stopped, short of giving the Customs the control of junk as well as steam traffic. In time of course this must come. "Cargo shipped on Native or Foreign boats to be towed by steamers" would be a useful amendment.

Following down we then come to clauses 8 and 9, and it is here that we are promised the publication of the Rules, &c., to be in force at places where dues and duties are payable—or in other words, how much we have to pay and where we have to pay it—before the end of the Chinese year. It is, however, not quite clear from these clauses whether the official who is to be appointed from the provincial authorities to collect the dues and duties on provincial account will do so on cargo going both ways, that is, from a treaty port to an inland place or coming from an inland place to a treaty port. The former is clear and is arranged for, but the latter appears in some doubt. Say cargo brought from Fatshan to Canton: will it pay anything at Fatshan or not? If not, will it be weighed and examined there and a certificate granted for it by the local officials on which the duty will be assessed when the goods arrive at Canton? If so, there should be no difficulty in the matter; but we submit that by the reading of the clauses this is not quite clear. We await, however, with confidence the issue of the Rules promised to elucidate this point. As our readers may remember, we pointed out in our leader of the 12th July, already referred to, that this difficulty of a tariff showing the places to be stopped at and the amount to be paid at each, had to be met and got over, and we say now as we did then, that these are the first steps to be taken in a scheme of internal reform, which great task, as it seems, needs but firmness on the part of the authorities and forbearance and vigilance on the part of the merchants to bring to a successful issue.

It is with some disappointment that we find Hongkong is not to participate directly in the benefits of the new opening of waters.

It is notified that quarantine in the Straits Settlements against arrivals from Canton and Macao has been withdrawn.

PENNY POSTAGE.

(*Daily Press*, 15th October.)

The Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements has passed a resolution in favour of the introduction of penny postage between that colony and the United Kingdom. The Acting Governor in the course of the debate said that so far as he understood what was going on at home he believed the home authorities were in favour of ocean penny postage, but when letters had to perform a very expensive transit through Europe they were not in favour of having penny postage, the cost of transit from London to Marseilles and from London to Brindisi being so great that there either would not be any profit on such letters or there would be a loss. Mr. MURRAY, the mover of the resolution, said, however, that the great portion of the letters, he might say all the letters, would continue to go by the Continental route, and it would be of no use whatever to the community to accept penny postage going right round Gibraltar. We would not go so far as Mr. MURRAY and say penny postage going right round Gibraltar would be of no use at all. There are many letters exchanged between this colony and the United Kingdom in reference to which ten days' longer on the journey would be quite immaterial, and the opportunity of conducting their postage at the cheaper rate might be appreciated by certain classes both here and in England. The bulk of the commercial correspondence will, however, necessarily continue to follow the quickest route, and we see no reason why the rate of postage should be reduced below the figure that the service actually costs. Some years ago the cost of transit across the continent of a letter from Hongkong to England amounted to over a penny, and although we believe there has since been some readjustment of the charges the cost is still probably not less than that sum. To this must be added the cost of the letter in Hongkong, its conveyance to Brindisi or other Continental port, and its cost at the other end. It is clear, therefore, that the rate cannot be reduced much lower than its present figure—2½d. outwards and 10 cents homewards—without loss. If a penny rate for the all-sea route can be arranged, well and good; even if it is not largely availed of it will presumably involve no loss, as arrangements will be made with the packets to carry the letters for that sum; but to ask the ratepayers generally to bear part of the cost of the mercantile or private correspondence for which a quicker but dearer route is voluntarily selected would be unreasonable.

But though the ten cent rate to the United Kingdom by the overland route may not be deemed excessive the rates in various other directions are undoubtedly so. On letters to India, Australia, Singapore, or Japan there is no cost of overland carriage, and to charge the same on letters to these places as is charged on letters following the expensive overland route to the United Kingdom is an anomaly that might with advantage be removed. Ten cents has been adopted as the local equivalent of the Postal Union rate of 2½d. for postage to a foreign country. But on principle it is not advisable to treat British possessions as foreign countries if the service can be conducted without loss at less than the Postal Union rates; and considering the nearness of Japan and the extent of our commercial relations with that country it would be advantageous if a more favourable postal tariff than the existing one could be arranged there also. A reduction

in the rates would probably not entail any loss of revenue in the long run." Mr. MURRAY in the Straits Legislative Council the other day remarked that the taking of the course he recommended would not be a leap in the dark, for in 1891 the postal unit for letters posted in that colony for places beyond the colony and beyond the Native States was reduced from 8 cents to 5 cents, the latter being at the present demand rate of exchange, say 1s. 1½d., equal to 1d., which was probably as near a working rate as they could get to 1d. The result of the working of the Post Office on the reduced rate of 5 cents was made known by the Postmaster General in the report on his department for 1893, which read as follows:—"The past three years constitute a very interesting epoch in the history of our postal tariff and teach an equally instructive lesson. On the 1st January, 1891, the rates of postage were reduced by upwards of 40 per cent., and on the following New Year's Day a further reduction took place. So great was the stimulus to correspondence from cheap postage that, notwithstanding the unprecedentedly depressed states of trade, the receipts from stamps and post cards for 1893 fell short of those for 1890 by only 5 per cent. The great boon of the cheapest postage in the world had been attained by the Straits Settlements, and in 1892 and 1893 it did not require a tax in another form to make up for its cost." Since 1893 there has been a considerable fall in exchange and 5 cents would not now, we believe, cover the cost of carrying a letter by the overland route to the United Kingdom, and if each letter showed a loss it is needless to remark that the loss could not be wiped out by increasing the quantity. But where there is no heavy charge for overland carriage to be provided for the experience of the Straits as detailed in the Postmaster-General's report for 1893 ought to encourage the Hongkong Government to reduce the postal rates and so favour the increase of correspondence.

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS LEASES.

(*Daily Press*, 15th October.)

Attached to the minutes of the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Committee will be found a representation made to the Government with reference to the reduced period for which Crown leases are now granted. Formerly the term in the city was 999 years, but it has now been cut down to seventy-five years, or ninety-nine years at the most. Against this the Committee protest, on the ground that the term is not sufficient to encourage the erection of substantial buildings and the investment of capital in landed property. The reply of the Secretary of State may possibly go to show that the intention in altering the duration of the lease was not that the Government should resume possession at the end of the term, but that there should be a readjustment of the Crown rent payable. No one who enters upon the occupation of Crown land on any better tenure than a squatter's licence ever imagines that he or his assigns will have to give it up, unless it should be required for public purposes, in which case it would be paid for on resumption at a fair market rate. The Land Commission of 1886-87 in their report, referring to the rural building lots, said:—"Before very long it will be necessary that something should be done in reference to the leases for seventy-five years. . . . No one has bought land,

"on a seventy-five years lease only, with the idea that the Crown would enforce its right of reentry at the end of seventy-five years and turn them out. . . . The Crown in dealing with Crown lands is not like some private persons selfishly seeking to drive a hard bargain at the expense of an individual, but to dispose of its lands in the best interests of the whole community." The owners of land at the Peak and elsewhere held on seventy-five years leases are not seriously alarmed as to the future, and more land is freely taken up on similar tenure. But, as the Land Commission say, something will have to be done with reference to these leases when the time approaches that they will begin to fall in. No doubt there will be a readjustment of the Crown rent, but beyond that it is not to be anticipated that there will be any disturbance of the occupancy. The same would of course apply to seventy-five years leases in the city, but it is natural that investors should desire something more solid than presumption or promises as to the future before they take up town lots on short leases. If the intention of Government is simply to secure a readjustment of the Crown rent when leases fall in it is desirable that the basis of the readjustment should be stated and that the lessee should have an indefeasible right to continue his occupancy if he chose to accept the terms. No doubt by the landlord class a nine hundred and ninety-nine years lease at a fixed and if possible a nominal rent would be preferred to any conceivable sliding scale. In England, however, the idea is gaining ground that the whole of the unearned increment should not go to individuals, but should be shared in by the community.

ONE-DOLLAR NOTES.

(*Daily Press*, 20th October.)

Now that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is authorised to issue notes in excess of the amount of its capital, on condition that it holds in reserve an equivalent amount in silver, it might be possible to secure the assent of the Secretary of State to an increased issue of one-dollar notes, which are greatly in demand. The Bank commenced to issue notes of this denomination in 1872, having obtained the Governor's permission, but the step was disapproved of at home and instructions sent to the Governor to order the withdrawal of the notes unless serious public inconvenience was likely to result. A public memorial was presented against the execution of this order, and the final result was that the Bank was allowed to maintain the circulation of one-dollar notes at the figure at which it then stood, but not to increase it, the amount being about \$200,000. The reason advanced by the Secretary of State for his disapproval of one-dollar notes was that they would be largely held by the poorer classes, who might be subject to panic. Whatever force that reason may have had at the time it was advanced, when the Bank was only required to hold a bullion reserve of one-third the amount of its note issue, it possesses no force now that the Bank is prepared to show a bullion reserve of dollar for dollar against the notes issued in excess of the amount of its capital. If panic did, as anticipated by the Secretary of State, seize upon the holders of one-dollar notes, all that they would have to do would be to present their notes at the Bank and receive in exchange silver dollars, responsible Government officials periodically satisfying themselves that the stock of dollars in reserve comes up to the

proper amount. The silver dollar is altogether too unwieldy a coin for ordinary use, and its substitution by paper would be a public boon. The case is perhaps not quite so urgent as when the one-dollar notes were first issued, for with the clean British dollars and the handy fifty-cent piece we are in a better position than when the currency consisted of badly chopped Mexicans and broken silver, with only a sprinkling of twenty and ten-cent pieces. But, the British dollar, however reliable it may be, is too heavy and cumbrous for daily use. In Japan, long before the recent change in the standard, the yen or dollar had been to a large extent displaced in the circulation of the country by the one-yen note, and even the poorest and most unenlightened classes preferred the notes to silver when they could get them. At the present time there is practically no yen coin in existence, the silver yen having been called in and the smallest gold coin minted for circulation being the two-yen, so that for single yen the public is entirely dependent upon paper, much to their satisfaction and convenience. In Hongkong our currency has always been in a disgraceful condition, owing to the blind conservatism of the Treasury authorities at home, but gradually some little improvement has been effected, and the time seems propitious for another step forward. We are glad to hear whispers of the gold standard beginning to be viewed more favourably in high quarters, but apart from that momentous question there is no reason why the public convenience should not be at once met by the issue of one-dollar notes in such quantities as the market demands. We take it for granted that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank would lend its assistance. The issue of notes against a full dollar for dollar bullion reserve cannot yield much profit to the issuing institution, but the Bank has always shown itself so willing and even desirous to meet the public requirements in currency matters that little fear need be entertained as to its attitude in relation to the one-dollar-note question.

OPPOSITION TO THE OCCUPATION OF THE NEW TERRITORY.

(*Daily Press*, 20th October.)

From our Canton Notes it will be seen that the Magistrate of the Sunon District has applied to the Canton Government for troops to suppress an anticipated rising. The more important half of the Sunon District is represented by the territory behind Kowloon shortly to be added to the colony of Hongkong. The question is therefore one of some interest to this colony, and from what we hear we are led to believe that the sooner the Government takes over the new territory the less trouble is there likely to be. It is said, indeed, that the rebellious movement projected is directed chiefly against the British occupation and that a considerable number of persons willing to bear arms have been enrolled. The leaders are evidently in possession of funds, if the reports in circulation are true, as each recruit in the earlier stages of the movement was paid two dollars, but either because the funds are dwindling away or because recruits are easily obtainable the bounty has now been reduced to sixty cents or thereabouts. The whole movement is of course utterly futile and absurd, but it would throw a cloud over the taking over of the new territory were it attended with bloodshed owing to the British troops having to fire on an opposing mob, and, in addition, a stock of difficulties for the civil administration of the future might be laid up. On the

whole it seems rather a pity the territory was not taken over some months ago, before there had been time for the feelings of the ignorant populace to be stirred up and played upon by designing agitators.

SETTING BACK THE CLOCK OF PROGRESS.

(*Daily Press*, 20th October.)

The hands of the clock of progress have been set back with a will by the usurping EMPRESS and her gang. Having first made a pretty clean sweep of all the advocates of reform and progress, vigorous measures are now being adopted to undo all that had been done in the reign of KWANG SU. Imperial decrees have been issued to re-establish the time-honoured but essentially rotten and absurd Chinese examination system; to suppress the issue of newspapers on the plea that as "newspapers only serve to excite the masses and the editors concerned are drawn from the dregs of the literary classes, no good can be served by the continuation of such dangerous instruments;" and to abolish the Bureau of Agriculture, Arts, and Commerce, on the ground that its labours had been abortive in Peking, but giving liberty to the Viceroys of provinces to establish such bureaux in their capitals if they see fit. All the schools proposed to be established by the late EMPEROR are also adjourned *sine die*, and the Peking University is likely, under the existing dispensation, to have a very precarious existence. Needless to say, schemes for the construction of new railways, the opening of mines, and the prosecution of other works for promoting the material growth of the empire, are not likely to meet with much encouragement from the EMPRESS Dowager and her henchmen unless they see a prospect of great personal gain being derived therefrom. If there is to be any progress in China under present conditions, it will be only by corrupt means, by oiling the palms of the new men in power. There was far too much of this in the past, when the avaricious Li HUNG-CHANG was at the head of affairs in Chihli and all contracts were effected with him or with his myrmidons. That contract hunting is both demoralising and degrading work. It lowers the prestige of the flag under which the concession is demanded, it denudes of self-respect the persons grovelling after it at the feet of the mandarins, and it lessens the influence of the Minister whose aid is invoked to procure the coveted contract. All this sort of thing will, however, we suppose, go on with renewed vigour under an Administration the very essence of whose policy is personal gain and whose *raison d'être* the danger their craft was in.

A CHINESE BATTALION FOR WEIHAIWEI.

(*Daily Press*, 19th October.)

The statement telegraphed by Reuter to the effect that the British War Office has applied to the Indian Government for the services of Major BOWER, the Tibetan explorer, to proceed to China for the purpose of raising a battalion of Chinese troops is interesting if nothing more. That it has anything of political importance about it is highly improbable, since the number appears to be limited to one battalion. The question therefore that first presents itself is, "Where are these troops wanted?" We do not believe they are required for Hongkong, not even for the Kowloon Hinterland, first, because they would not be acceptable here, and, secondly, because Major BOWER's

services would not be required, inasmuch as there are plenty of officers in the garrison of this colony quite as competent as the gallant officer before named to organise a battalion of Chinese troops. There is, however, now another coaling station, in the North, which, so far, is not properly garrisoned. We allude to Weihaiwei. Up to the present time the port has been garrisoned by Marines from the Fleet with a few Royal Engineers. A detachment of the Royal Marines numbering 140 officers and men is also now on its way out in the transport *Ceylon* to reinforce the slender garrison of the Northern station, but so far no regiments have been placed on the roster for Weihaiwei. It is highly probable, therefore, that the proposed Chinese battalion is intended for that port.

Supposing this to be the fact, the question arises as to the expediency of raising a Chinese force for use in British territory at all, and more especially in a British colony on the coast of China. We have no great faith in the Chinese as soldiers under any conditions. They are not amenable to discipline, they are exceedingly slovenly by nature, and wholly without conscience in the keeping of their arms and ammunition. Their queue is always in the way and handicaps them in any struggle with an enemy, their mode of dress and the shoes they wear are unsuitable, and though excellent beasts of burden, when obliged to carry burdens, they have an invincible repugnance for marching of any kind. Still it may be possible to lick them into shape, especially if they are content to drop the queue. Should this be so however, they should not be employed in China. A prophet has no honour in his own country, and Chinese soldiers are—being what they are—rightly regarded with a good deal of contempt in the Celestial Empire. If it be impossible to raise more troops in India, then we should be disposed to recommend the employment of Chinese troops in West Africa and the use of West Indian troops in Ceylon, Mauritius, Hongkong, &c. This would set free other troops, who might be despatched to Weihaiwei. But it would be a rather doubtful experiment to employ Chinese troops, especially if recruited North, in Weihaiwei. Probably Hakkas from Kwangtung would be more suitable than any others if they could be obtained. They are a fighting race and have little sympathy with the ordinary Chinese population. The question of climate might, however, prove another stumbling block. The Hakkas might not like the severe winters of the North, though they are a pretty hardy race and would probably soon get acclimatised. Whether the various difficulties and drawbacks have been fully considered at the War Office we are of course unable to say. How to raise suitable troops at all for garrison duty in the numerous outlying dependencies of this vast empire is a problem not easily worked out. But when working it out sufficient account should be given to surrounding circumstances, or we may otherwise have cause to rue hastily made decisions.

The *N. C. Daily News* says:—It is reported in the North that the British fleet was summoned to Taku when Sir Claude Macdonald was absent from his post, and that as soon as he could be informed the Admiral, much to the latter's disgust, that he did not want it. If it was a mistake getting the fleet to Taku, it was a much greater mistake ordering it away, these abortive demonstrations doing constant injury to our prestige, and proving to the world how completely aimless our policy in China is.

THE CHINESE CRISIS.

LI NOT AN IMPORTANT FACTOR.

THE REIGN OF TERROR NECESSITATES FOREIGN FORCES.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Shanghai, 14th October.

The Legations do not believe that Li was an important factor in bringing about the crisis.

Thirty-two Japanese troops have arrived at Peking and have produced an impression in the Palace.

Prince Ching entreated the Legations not to increase the foreign forces in Peking, but was told that no such assurance was possible while the reign of terror continued.

REFORMS PROMISED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SHANGHAI, 16th October.

Decrees have been issued by the Empress-Dowager authorising the Viceroys Chang Chih-tung and Liu to establish commercial bureaux at Haukow and Shanghai, promising to inaugurate salutary reforms, and warning the people to abstain from using the crusade against Reformers for the gratification of private spite.

THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE LUHAN RAILWAY.

OFFICIAL ASSURANCES.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Shanghai, 14th October.

The Belgian Minister has assured the Chinese Government that the Belgians will fulfil the contract for the Luhan Railway and finance the business.

SUPREME COURT.

October 18th.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE, SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE POST OFFICE CASES.—AN UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTY.

The Acting Attorney-General (Mr. Pollock) asked that the man Li Ho should be requested to come forward.

Li Ho was accordingly called and came to the front.

The Acting Attorney-General said Li Ho was a man against whom an information was filed in connection with certain charges under the Post Office Ordinance No. 1 of 1887. Since the information was filed it had occurred to him that there might be some difficulty in the way of the Supreme Court dealing with this case. As this was a matter of some public interest he would ask leave to refer his lordship to sub-section 1 of section 97 of the Magistrates' Ordinance No. 10 of 1890, which was the section which had created the difficulty in his mind which he had referred to and which seemed to him to prevent the Supreme Court from having power to deal with the case of this man. Sub-section 1 of section 97 of the Magistrates' Ordinance No. 10 of 1890 read as follows:—"It shall be lawful for a Magistrate, upon such grounds as he shall, in his discretion deem sufficient, to review his decision or adjudication within seven clear days from the date thereof (unless in the meantime an application has been made to state and sign a case under section 99 hereof and such application is not withdrawn) and, upon such review, to re-open and re-hear the case wholly or in part, and to take fresh evidence and to revise, vary, or confirm the previous decision or adjudication." Perhaps he might also refer at the same time to sub-section 2 of the same section, which said:—"Whenever any accused has been committed for trial and the Attorney-General has in pursuance of the 9th section of

Ordinance 2 of 1869 or any other ordinance in that behalf hereafter in force in the colony remitted the case for further investigation or to be dealt with summarily; the committing Magistrate or Magistrates shall re-open the case and deal with it in all respects as if the accused had not been committed for trial, and if the case be such that it may be dealt with summarily by such Magistrate or Magistrates, he or they shall so deal with it." The legal difficulty to which he had alluded arose under sub-section 1. He would remind his lordship that in the first instance when this man Li Ho was brought before the Police Magistrate he pleaded guilty to the charge of detaining a letter or letters, and the Magistrate thereupon summarily sentenced Li Ho, without hearing any evidence at all, to imprisonment for six months with hard labour. Subsequently Mr. Brutton appeared at the Police Court on behalf of Li Ho and requested the Magistrate to re-open and re-hear the case, which the Magistrate accordingly did, taking certain evidence, and upon that evidence, the defence being reserved, Li Ho was committed by the Magistrate at the Police Court to take his trial at the sessions. It seemed to him, however, that according to the true interpretation of sub-section one of section 97, the Magistrate having once dealt with the case summarily and inflicted a summary punishment it was not competent for him to send the case up to the Supreme Court. The only power which the Magistrate had under the sub-section to which he had referred was to re-open and re-hear the case wholly or in part, which he thought must mean, construing this Ordinance strictly, as he thought it ought to be interpreted, that the Magistrate had himself to re-open and re-hear the case and deal with it himself and that the Magistrate had himself to reverse, vary, or confirm his previous sentence. He did not think it would be competent for the Magistrate, bearing in mind the meaning of the word "vary," to leave his sentence, as he had done, of six months' imprisonment with hard labour against this man still standing and at the same time commit him for trial at those sessions. It seemed to him, if he might say so, that if this case went on for trial at those sessions and supposing this man were found guilty by a jury there would be two sentences outstanding against him because the sentence of the Police Magistrate of six months' hard labour was, he took it, still un-reversed, and the man would be placed in a very difficult and awkward position. Under these circumstances he had decided, after carefully considering the point, to exercise the power which was vested in him as Acting Attorney-General under section 9 of Ordinance 21 of 1869 of directing the original depositions to be returned to the committing Magistrate, and as Acting Attorney-General he did in pursuance of the power vested in him by this section of the Ordinance now direct that the original depositions be returned to the committing Magistrate for him to re-open the case and deal with it in all respects as if Li Ho had not been committed for trial, and of course he at the same time withdrew the information which had been filed in that court against Li Ho.

Mr. Slade, who appeared for defendant, said it appeared to him that there were only two courses open—either to proceed with the trial or to offer no evidence on the information upon which Li Ho had been brought there.

The Chief Justice differed from Mr. Slade. He said he thought the Acting Attorney-General had taken the right course in this matter. It was a peculiar case and perhaps it would be desirable he should add a few words to what had been already said. In some ways perhaps it was unfortunate that this case could not be brought in court before a jury, but he felt clear that that court was not, in the circumstances of the case, competent to try it. This man was charged before the Magistrate with detaining a post letter. On that charge it was competent for the Magistrate to take one of two courses. He might have exercised jurisdiction himself and proceeded to a conviction such as the evidence might warrant, or he might have declined to exercise jurisdiction and committed the case for trial at that court if he thought a *prima facie* case was made out. The Magistrate took the former of

these courses. He exercised jurisdiction; he dealt with the case summarily and he proceeded to a conviction. That conviction was good and valid. It could only be impeached or affected, as he understood, in one of two ways—either by an appeal to the full court or by a review of the decision under the section to which reference had been made—section 97 of the Magistrates' Ordinance of 1890. There was no question now of an appeal to the full court to vary the Magistrates' decision, no application to review his decision or adjudication under section 87 of the Ordinance. Now that section conferred a power which was a special power and must be strictly followed. Under that section the Magistrate had power to re-open and re-hear the case wholly or in part and to take fresh evidence and to reverse, vary, or confirm his previous decision or adjudication. It was quite clear the whole of the sub-section referred to cases dealt with by the Magistrate in the exercise of his own proper jurisdiction and in no way to cases of indictable offence triable before that court. He thought that that section enabled a Magistrate to reverse, to vary, or to confirm his previous decision or adjudication. It gave him no power to waive or pass by his decision or adjudication and to decide to send the case for trial before that court. The Magistrate, as he understood, did not act strictly under that sub-section. He did not reverse, he did not vary, and he did not confirm his decision. He left it as it was and remitted the case for trial before that court. He felt clear that that was a mistake in procedure, caused no doubt through inadvertence, and that defendant was not properly before that court at all. The Magistrate had no power under this special Ordinance to commit him for trial before that court. There was also a further objection. Supposing he were to be tried by that court there would be the fact that there was already a standing conviction against him and he would be tried for an offence for which he was now liable to undergo imprisonment for six months with hard labour. He thought the only way out of the difficulty was for the case to be remitted to the Magistrate for him to deal with in the exercise of the summary jurisdiction he had already assumed. Therefore the original depositions would go back, and no doubt the police would take defendant before the Magistrate to be dealt with.

The Acting Attorney-General said that after the expression of opinion which had just fallen from his lordship he proposed to deal in the same way with the case of Cheng Tsang, who was also charged with offences under the Post Office Ordinance 1887. This man also admitted the charge at the Police Court and was dealt with summarily and sentenced to six months' hard labour, after which the case was re-opened. He stood in exactly the same position from a legal point of view as the man Li Ho.

The Chief Justice—Let him be brought up. The man having been brought forward,

The Acting Attorney-General said that in pursuance of the power vested in him he asked that the original depositions be returned to the Magistrate for him to re-open the case and deal with it in all respects as though defendant had not been committed for trial, and at the same time he withdrew the information against Cheng Tsang which had been filed.

Both defendants were then removed, and subsequently brought up at the Magistracy before Commander Hastings, who remanded them to gaol.

THE SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A WOMAN.

A woman named Chan Fung Ying, of 48, Stanley Street, was charged on remand, on the first count, with "inducing a girl named Ho Tai Mui above the age of 12 and under the age of 16 to be in the premises 48, Stanley Street, for the purpose of being carnally known by men." There were ten other counts in the indictment.

The following composed the jury:—Messrs. A. A. de Jesus, A. H. Mancio da Silva, Schelto Swart, L. Randolph Ruchwaldy, F. Röhrs, A. Levy, and A. S. Gubbay.

The Acting Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys, Crown Solicitor) appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Slade (instructed by Mr. Looker) for the defence.

In stating the case for the prosecution, the

Acting Attorney-General said the girl's story was that her eldest sister sold her to defendant on the 25th March last. Complainant understood she was sold to defendant for the purpose merely of doing certain household work about defendant's house, but after she had lived in the house about a fortnight she was compelled by defendant to become a prostitute. Defendant would not allow her any rice to eat so long as she refused to do what was required of her, and defendant would not allow her to go out of the house, defendant being apparently afraid lest if complainant once got outside the house she would run away. It would appear that at the time the girl was sold to defendant, complainant put a finger mark upon a certain document. In his opinion this document did not assist defendant in her case in the slightest degree. In fact, it seemed to him that it rather wove the chains closer about her and made her guilt in this matter more certain. This document purported to say that complainant had borrowed from defendant the sum of \$200, and that defendant could any time get back the money. So far as he could see the suggestion which must be made by the defence was that the sum of money was naturally borrowed from defendant upon what he might call the security of the person of complainant, and the latter would tell the jury that on her becoming a prostitute all her earnings were paid over to defendant, the idea being that all complainant's earnings should go to repay this debt. At the beginning of last month a sister of complainant found out where she was living. She at once took her away, and information was given to the police.

Complainant and others gave evidence. The further hearing was adjourned.

October 19th.

On the conclusion of the case for the prosecution the Chief Justice intimated that the counts which he purposed submitting to the jury were counts one, two, three, four, six, and 11. The first count is given above. The other five are:—

2.—"Knowingly suffering a girl named Ho Tai Mui above the age 12 and under the age of 16 to be in the premises No. 48, Stanley Street, for the purpose of being carnally known by men."

3.—"Taking part in purchasing a girl named Ho Tai Mui for the purpose of prostitution."

4.—"Taking part in taking in pledge a girl named Ho Tai Mui for the purpose of prostitution."

6.—"Taking part in disposing of a girl named Ho Tai Mui for the purpose of prostitution."

11.—"Procuring a girl named Ho Tai Mui to become a common prostitute."

Mr. Slade opened the case for the defence, and then proceeded to call his witnesses.

Defendant said that on the 22nd March last a woman named Ah Sui, together with complainant, came to her brothel at 48, Stanley Street, and asked her to lend her \$50, which she did. They came again on the 25th March, and Ah Sui asked her to lend her another \$150. She said their father was seriously ill and she wanted the money for him. Ah Sui promised to repay the money within six months or at the longest within 12 months. She said she would repay it out of the earnings of two of her sisters and she would also leave complainant at 48, Stanley Street; and what she earned there could go towards the reduction of the debt. Complainant was present at the time and said she was willing to fall in with the arrangement, also telling defendant she had been a prostitute before on board a boat, and that she was 17 years of age. Ah Sui and complainant then left, coming again on March 29th, when Ah Sui said that that day was a lucky day and that she would leave complainant there as a prostitute, and "to add to your light" (meaning "to increase your business"). Defendant said it was not true she ill-treated complainant and thus compelled her to become a prostitute. Complainant was perfectly free to go in and out, and she went out several times. Last month she went away with her sister and did not come back again. They took some jewellery away with them, and she went

after them to get it back, but was not successful.

Other witnesses were called.

It was 20 minutes to six when the jury retired to consider their verdict.

After an absence of 25 minutes they returned, and in answer to the clerk of the Court (Mr. Seth),

The Foreman (Mr. de Jesus) said the jury found defendant not guilty by four to three on the first count, not guilty unanimously on the second count, and not guilty by six to one on the third, fourth, sixth, and eleventh counts.

The Clerk—The substance of your verdict is that defendant is not guilty on all the counts?

The Foreman—Yes.

The Chief Justice said a majority verdict could only be taken after a reasonable interval, and he thought the jury had only been out about half-an-hour. What did the Attorney-General say?

The Acting Attorney-General said he would abide by the verdict, and defendant was accordingly discharged.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th October. Present: Messrs R. M. Gray (Chairman), Herbert Smith (Vice Chairman), A. Haupt, J. J. Bell-Irving, T. Jackson, A. McConachie, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held on the 1st September) were read and confirmed.

NEW MEMBER.

The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Limited, had been admitted to membership during the past month.

THE IMPERIAL MARITIME CUSTOMS AND HONGKONG.

In conformity with the decision come to at last meeting, the resolutions passed on the above subject were, on the 2nd September, transmitted to Lord Salisbury and to the Hongkong Government with the request that they should be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

A letter in acknowledgment was received on the 5th September, with the assurance that copies of the resolutions would be despatched to the Colonial Office and to H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking.

On the same date a letter was received from Sir Claude MacDonald acknowledging receipt of a copy of a despatch addressed to Lord Salisbury.

A letter was, on the 8th idem, addressed to the London Chamber of Commerce on the same subject, and the support and co-operation of the metropolitan body solicited.

This letter had been forwarded to the Press for publication.

THE INCREASED RENTAL OF WHARVES AND PIERS.

A reply to the Chamber's letter to the Government on this subject was received on the 17th September, in which it was stated that, after due reconsideration, H.E. the Acting Governor regretted his inability to reverse or modify the decision already arrived at in regard to the annual rents to be charged for piers and wharves under the new Regulations.

The Chairman said he understood the parties interested were moving in this matter, and he thought the Chamber should second them in any effort to obtain a reconsideration of the rentals charged under the new regulations.

The Vice-Chairman said he was about to ask, on behalf of the wharf owners, to be allowed to have the use of the Chamber's room for a meeting.

Permission was accorded, and further action deferred pending result of the meeting.

PROPOSED WESTERN HARBOUR OF REFUGE.

A letter having been received from Mr. R. K. Leigh, C.E., suggesting the advisability of constructing a harbour of refuge by forming a breakwater at the western end of the harbour, the idea was favourably entertained by the Committee, and, on the 15th September, a despatch was addressed to Government strongly recom-

mending the suggestion to its careful consideration.

No reply had yet been received to this communication.

CROWN LEASES.

The Government being desirous of obtaining the views of the Chamber on the change lately introduced, reducing the term of Crown leases from 999 to 75 or 99 years at the most a letter was, on the 22nd September, addressed to the Colonial Secretary giving the opinions of the Chamber, which are strongly adverse to the alteration.

A reply, stating that a copy of the above had gone forward by French mail, was received on the 10th September.

The Chairman said he understood that a good many opinions had been taken on this point by the Hongkong Government, and as they must be universally against the short leases, it may be hoped that this concensus of opinion will have due effect on the Colonial Office.

THE OPENING OF THE PORT OF KIAOCHOW.

A letter was received from the Government transmitting copy of a letter from the German Consul reporting the opening of Kiaochow as a free port on the 2nd September.

THE MISSION OF LORD CHARLES BERESFORD.

The Chairman said—You are aware that when the Vice-Chairman, the Secretary, and I called on Admiral Lord Charles Beresford to invite him to address a public meeting (which he declined), he accorded us a lengthy interview, in which he discussed the position of affairs in China and the object of his visit as representing the Associated Chambers of Commerce of England. The principal points brought forward were much on the lines of his speech at Singapore, which speech was not then known to us, and he explained that the principal object of his inquiry would be to ascertain what could be done to create security for the investment of British capital in China and for the promotion of trade by such security, and by the enforcement of the provisions of the Treaties in China, particularly with reference to the illegal taxation of foreign goods. He recommended the Chamber to make known its views on the situation and stated that both it and the Shanghai Chamber might be assured that their opinions would receive full attention at home.

THE WORKING OF THE POST OFFICE.

Letters had been received from Messrs. Cowasjee Pallanjee & Co. and Gibb, Livingston & Co., making serious complaints of the loss of correspondence by the Post Office although duly posted, signed for, and enclosed in strong covers.

Several other cases were also mentioned of recent loss of letters, and the matter was considered urgent, as calling for a most searching investigation. It was decided to forward copies of both letters to the Government and to ask that an immediate and thorough inquiry be made into the complaints.

(Correspondence).

THE GOVERNMENT RENT ON WHARVES.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 17th September, 1898.

Sir.—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 18th ultimo, and to state for the information of the Chamber of Commerce that after due reconsideration His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government regrets his inability to reverse or modify the decision already arrived at in regard to the annual rents to be charged for piers and wharves under the new regulations referred to.

The revised rates will, accordingly, come into force on the 1st January next, and will be republished in the Government Gazette with a notice to that effect.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH.

Acting Colonial Secretary.
The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

WESTERN HARBOUR OF REFUGE.

Hongkong, 3rd September, 1898.
R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir.—I should be obliged by your bringing the following suggestion to the notice of the Chamber, with the view, that if it concurs,

of placing the matter officially before the Government.

The suggestion I have to offer is the construction of a Western Harbour of Refuge for small craft.

The want of such a refuge must, I think, be evident to all; but I would like to point out what appears to me to be some of the chief reasons.

The present refuge at Causeway Bay is far too small to accommodate anything like the number of small craft using the harbour.

The greater portion of it has become so silted up that it is dry at low water and therefore available for only very shallow draft boats.

This refuge lies to windward in all bad weather experienced in the harbour and therefore can only be reached either by the boats leaving on the first signs of bad weather or by being towed by launches.

The refuge I propose would be formed by constructing a breakwater area from Slaughter House Point of say 400 yards long.

This would form a refuge of about 80 acres, or considerably larger than the one at Causeway Bay.

The whole of this area is deep water and would be available at all states of the tide for craft of considerable draft, the average depth being about 4 fathoms.

The refuge would be to leeward so that boats knowing they had this refuge to make for could continue work at ships to a much later time and often on false alarms would not require to stop work at all, whereby much loss of time in the loading and discharging of vessels would be saved.

They would not require any towing to reach this refuge. It would be situated much nearer the bulk of the shipping than Causeway Bay.

I am confident such a refuge would materially assist in the work of the harbour during the typhoon season, and also be the means of saving many boats and perhaps lives from being lost in bad weather.

I estimate the approximate cost at \$100,000. I shall be pleased to attend any meeting of the Chamber or to show any members interested the plans.—I have the honour to be, sir, yours faithfully,

R. K. LEIGH.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong, 15th September, 1898.

Sir.—A suggestion has been made to the Committee of this Chamber for the formation of a Harbour of Refuge west of the Slaughter House for the accommodation of small craft during the summer gales.

The present refuge behind the Breakwater in Causeway Bay is gradually silting up, and even now barely affords necessary accommodation for native craft. It is situated at the extreme east of the harbour, from which direction the prevailing storms come, and must either be sought at the earliest stage of threatening weather or the boats using it must be towed by steam-launch, an agency both costly and uncertain.

A refuge situated west would, on the other hand, be accessible in almost any weather by vessels under sail, and they could defer seeking it to a later period than the existing refuge, thus saving loss of time and inconvenience to themselves and the shipping generally. Its closer proximity to the centre of the harbour, where the work of transhipment and landing is mainly carried on, would necessarily prove a great convenience.

Mr. R. K. Leigh, C.E., who has made the above suggestion, is of opinion that a refuge could be formed by constructing a breakwater arm from Slaughter House Point about 400 yards in length, which would, he estimates, give an area of some eighty acres with deep water throughout, or considerably larger than that now in use at Causeway Bay.

The Committee are strongly of opinion that this suggestion merits careful consideration, the more so since the Refuge at Causeway Bay, already limited in area, will soon be entirely inadequate for the purpose, and they therefore commend the scheme to the favourable attention of the Government.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.
To Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary.

THE LENGTH OF CROWN LEASES:

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 22nd September, 1898.
Sir,—It having come to the knowledge of the Committee of the Chamber that the Government, acting under instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies have reduced the period for which the leases of Crown lands are granted, viz., from 999 years to 75 or 99 years at the utmost, they respectfully beg to lay their views on this important subject before His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government.

The Crown leases in the city of Victoria and its suburbs were originally granted for 75 years only but this short term not proving satisfactory, in March, 1849, upon the recommendation of a Committee of the House of Commons an extension of 924 years was granted to the holders of then existing leases and the term fixed at 999 years for the future, which was adhered to without exception until within the last two months. Several lots on the resumed area in Taipingshan were then sold on a lease of 75 years, but the premium demanded had to be reduced to half the amount which could have been obtained had a longer period been granted.

In Kowloon the Crown leases have with some few exceptions, viz., two or three inland lots, the Marine lots at Tsim tsa-shui, and the property held by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.—all of which are on a tenure of 999 years—been made for a term of 75 years, and the same term was given to the Rural Building Lots in the Hill District. The owners of all these lots, however, were allowed to believe that the question of the future extension of the lease to a parity with those held within the city of Victoria would be considered, and that, in no case, would resumption follow on conclusion of the term. In this faith too, mortgages have been effected which otherwise could not have safely been concluded.

The Committee feel profound regret that so radical a measure affecting the tenure of land should have actually been put into operation without consulting any opinion in this colony, and they deplore the tendency at the Colonial Office to endeavour to apply legislation to distant dependencies of the Crown without sufficient regard being had to the local circumstances. In the present case the change so unceremoniously introduced cannot fail to have far-reaching consequences, and in its working will assuredly act disastrously on the future well-being of the colony. In protesting against the change, the Committee wish to point out:—

1.—The abandonment of long leases, after granting the same for nearly fifty years, will have the effect of

- a.—Placing all property held on 999 years lease at a high premium.
- b.—Reducing the premium on sales of Crown lands from 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. according to locality.
- c.—Producing a great decline in the demand for Crown lands and consequent falling off in revenue.
- d.—Increasing the stringency in the money market by rendering many properties non-negotiable as securities for loans, any lease having less than sixty years to run being regarded as insufficient by trustees and corporations.

2.—Another result of the change will be that the city of Victoria will cease to expand as it will not pay to erect substantial buildings such as banks, hotels, mercantile offices, &c., on leasehold ground held for a short term. It will prove more remunerative to purchase existing buildings, pull them down and re-erect, economising the area by increasing the altitude, the effect being to aggravate congestion and intensify the risk of fire.

3.—The prospect which hitherto seemed so favourable of this colony attracting various new industries to its shores must dissipate into their air, as it is quite out of the question to suppose that capitalists will lay down expensive plant and rear massive buildings with no better tenure for their property than a 75 years lease.

4.—Landed property in Hongkong has, ever since the extension of the Crown leases to 999 years, been the favourite form of investment with the Chinese and large sums of money

are annually sent from Canton to be invested here. The Chinese regard the 999 years' lease as practically freehold and hence feel a confidence in the security that they repose in no other investment. It would surely be most undesirable to disturb that confidence or to stay that influx of capital into a colony where, owing to the instability of exchange, this medium is so painfully restricted.

5.—Under this new system, rents which are already very high and press hardly on a large section of the community, will inevitably be largely increased, and the pressure will be felt the more severely by landowners, coming as it will immediately after the heavy outlays recently entailed on sanitary improvements. What is of even greater importance, however, is the check it will infallibly impose on the outgrowth of the city.

6.—That check will extend more or less through the whole fabric of the colony's prosperity, and will speedily make itself felt on the revenue. In attempting thus to provide for the benefit of posterity, shall we not be risking the growth of the legacy it is designed to bequeath?

Trusting that His Excellency the officer administering the Government will without loss of time be so good as to make known the views of the Chamber on this momentous question to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 10th October, 1898.

Sir,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, relative to the reduction of the term of years for which Crown leases are granted, and to inform you that a copy of it was sent to Downing Street by the French mail of the 8th instant.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

THE POST OFFICE.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 13th October, 1898.

Sir,—It is with great regret that the Committee of this Chamber feel compelled again to request you to invite the attention of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government to the working of the Post Office Department.

On previous occasions the Chamber has had to complain of delayed deliveries of various mails causing great inconvenience to the mercantile community. The complaints now laid before the Committee, copies of some of the principal of which are enclosed, are of the non-delivery of important business correspondence duly posted but never received. This is a much more serious matter, since it not only entails immediate loss, personal annoyance, and far-reaching inconvenience, but it tends to destroy all confidence in the Post Office, a department in which it is usual to place implicit reliance.

It is perfectly clear that there is widespread pilfering in the Post Office, and opportunities for it must be given which ought not, in a well-regulated office, to be afforded. The system of protecting the mails adopted is evidently faulty, and the supervision exercised over their making up and despatch would seem to be either very casual or ineffective to admit of the robberies lately perpetrated.

Having regard, therefore, to the serious nature of the complaints, of which those laid before it in writing are only representative of numbers more, the Committee would respectfully urge the Government to institute an immediate and most searching inquiry into the entire working of the Department, with a view to fix where and how the robberies are committed, and to take such steps as will render their repetition practically impossible.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

The following are the enclosures alluded to:—

A.—Copy of letter addressed to the Chamber by Messrs. Cawasjee, Pallanjee & Co., dated 10th October.

B.—Packets of masters shewing the manner in which the lost correspondence was done up and addressed.

C.—Copy of letter addressed to the Chamber by Messrs. Gibb, Livingston & Co., dated 10th October.

R.C.W.
To Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary.

Hongkong, 10th October, 1898.
R. CHATTERTON WILCOX, Esq., Secretary, The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,—We shall be much obliged if you will kindly lay before the Committee of the Chamber the following facts with regard to correspondence posted by us here for transmission to Bombay and Shanghai, which has never reached its destination, in the hope that your Committee will make such representations to His Excellency the officer administering the Government as may induce him to appoint a commission to enquire into the working and management of the General Post Office, with the view of ascertaining whether sufficient care and European supervision is exercised over correspondence after it has been received into the Post Office so as to prevent the abstraction of covers by employés in the Post Office.

We may mention that in each of the under-mentioned cases the stamps on the covers contain the correspondence, which in each case was a large one, amounted to between \$1 and \$3.

In the following table the date of the posting of each lost cover is given with the name of the addressee and the steamer by which it should have gone forward.

We may say that in each case the stamps were affixed to each of the missing letters in our office and each letter was then placed in a wooden box, which was also securely sealed up in our office, together with a chit book, then handed to a native messenger in our employment, who was directed to carry the box to the Post Office, and who subsequently returned to our office with empty box and the chit book stamped with the seal of the General Post Office.

Our chit books are open for inspection and we will hand them to you for that purpose if requested to do so.

We trust that your Committee will see their way to impress upon His Excellency that this question of the loss of correspondence is highly important to the public at large and that a searching enquiry should be made to ascertain if it is possible or probable that our missing letters were abstracted before the mail bags were placed on board the steamers mentioned.

We have both ourselves and through our solicitors approached the Postmaster-General direct on the subject, but we cannot say that the result of the interviews has been to inspire us with confidence that there will not be a recurrence of losses, and we fear that no real enquiry will be made in the Post Office as to how this correspondence has been lost and adequate steps taken to prevent its recurrence in the future.—We are, sir, yours faithfully,

CAWASJEE, PALLANJEE & CO.

Hongkong, 10th October 1898.
R. C. Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

Dear Sir,—As the Hongkong Post Office matters have already been having the attention of your Committee, we beg to acquaint you with the following:—

On the 1st ult. we addressed a cover to our firm in Foochow per *Haitan* and same was sent into the Post Office on that date, in the usual way, in a chit-book. The *Haitan* sailed on the 2nd and in due course we received a telegram from our Foochow firm to the effect that they had not received the letter and up till date of last arrivals from Foochow same had not reached them.

On receipt of the telegram we notified the Postmaster-General of the fact of the non-delivery of the cover, and asked him to be good enough to institute enquiries on the matter and on 24th ult. we received a notification from

him that these had been made; but he regretted to say without success.

In view of the many complaints made of late with regard to the working of the Post Office here, which are no doubt within the knowledge of your Committee, we beg to bring this further instance before them, as we venture to think that the sum total constitutes a charge of sufficient gravity to warrant your Committee in asking the Government to institute a searching enquiry into the working of the Department with a view to having the conduct of the postal business here placed on a much more efficient and satisfactory footing.—We are, dear sir, your obedient servants,

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.

THE SITUATION AT MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 5th October.

During the last two weeks there has been an unusual amount of activity in officialdom. Thorough and competent systems are now in order providing for the health and sanitary arrangements of the city. Owing to the numerous gutters, sinks, and shallow creeks resulting at low water in mere pools, the thorough cleansing of the place is exceedingly difficult. American officials are wisely acting in conjunction with the men who had this work in hand under the Spanish rule, and from their combined efforts much progress is expected in controlling the fevers, malaria and small pox that are now existing. Major Bourne, Pres. Board of Health, has divided the city into ten districts, for each of which a city physician has been appointed. They are to be responsible for the health of their respective districts and to provide necessary assistance for the needy and indigent. Eight midwives have been appointed and will continue discharging their duties as under previous regulations. For the benefit of strangers and resident physicians not now practising, the following has been announced:—"All physicians graduate of recognized medical institutions will be permitted to practise their profession in this city under regulations heretofore existing. They must present themselves at the Government office for the proper registration of their names, residences and diplomas.

There is no denying the fact that there is a large amount of sickness among the troops. As usual, fevers claim the greatest numbers; but during the last few days the appearance of the dread small pox has caused considerable alarm. Already there has been two deaths and fourteen cases reported. A pest house has been established under the charge of Capt. O'Brien 1st Calif. Vol. In the old city, which is a filthy place in spite of all efforts at cleansing it, and which is crowded with Spanish prisoners, there is practically very little disease that has been discovered.

As far as the insurgents are concerned, everything is going smoothly; their lines are well outside the city limits thus avoiding all friction with our men. Beginning from 500 yards east of the American river outpost and continuing on up to the lake the insurgents have numerous outposts and small guard-quarters, which give them easy control of the upper river traffic. I accompanied Lieutenant Haan, commanding the Battalion of Engineers, on a surveying trip in a Government launch up the Pasig and San Juan rivers. Though the launch flew the American flag we were stopped at every rebel outpost and challenged, but always allowed to proceed and on the whole we received the most courteous treatment. Things are beginning to drift into the old channel again. Fields that have been neglected and fought over for months are now being plowed and sown with rice, the little nipa huts are springing up everywhere, the rivers and creeks are full up with native boats of all descriptions bringing down produce to the city. With the influx of so many soldiers and strangers the washing trade has received an immense impetus. It really seems as if every native has opened a laundry, and towards evening hundreds of boats wend their way up the river loaded down with great bundles of clothes.

The troops are gradually settling down to routine work with better grace, and the general impression seems to be that they will remain here for a good part of their time of enlistment. A lot of new white and blue uniforms have

arrived, so dress parades are in order, and a few drills on the Luneta with bands playing and people driving about in carriages tend to make a man feel more like a soldier than an ordinary policeman, and on the whole give him more respect for himself and arouse a little conceit, a small amount of which element is necessary to the proper conception of man's idea of a man.

The officers are devoting their spare time to the formation of an Army and Navy club which bids fair to be successfully launched in a few days. As there are a great many officers here they are going with the affair on a large scale. The Admiral's palace on the bank of the Pasig has been selected as most desirable, as the navy men can come right up to the building in their launches.

Judging from these signs and others it really looks as though the American occupation is to be a matter of some years. On top of this, however, a cablegram was reported yesterday ordering the Nebraska troops home. Last night the men in the barracks were all singing "Home Sweet Home" accompanied by the band.

Sandico, who will be remembered as the proprietor of a bicycle store in Hongkong, has long been beyond the pale of Aguinaldo's favour; but recently he has been entrusted with some offices and commissions which he has executed with considerable ability. As a result his star is on the rise and his merit is being appreciated not only by his own people but by the Americans with whom he has had extensive dealings through the Bureau of Information.

Last week there was a meeting held in the palace, at which the directors of the principal educational institutions were present. It has been decided to re-open the schools with as short a delay as possible. Former instructors are holding meetings and teachers in country districts are being called in. The idea is evidently to conduct them exactly according to old rules and former plans, subject, however, to American supervision.

The steamer *Sunkiang* arrived this morning but owing to disease was sent into quarantine at Merivales.

I have just received the report from the hospital: Last night 3 deaths from small pox. Up to three o'clock to-day 40 new cases of fever and malaria.

Manila, 10th October.

The usual serenity of affairs concerning the Filipinos has been considerably disturbed during the last few days. The latest trouble has been a brush with the English naval men. On Sunday a launch and party of men from the *Powerful* went up the Pasig intending to go to the English cemetery for the purpose of burying a comrade who had died of fever. As is usual in such cases there was an armed escort to fire the salute over the grave. The English cemetery lies within the rebel lines, and as the launch went up the river there was no trouble until the American outposts had been passed and the first Filipino sentry sighted; then came the order to halt. A Filipino sergeant informed the officer in charge that as there were armed men in the party they could proceed no further. It was explained that it was merely a funeral formality and that a salute is always fired in honour of departed comrades. However, the sergeant could do nothing but obey orders, and he referred the officer to the lieutenant. The officer went ashore and splashed through paddy fields until he finally unearthed the lieutenant, but this worthy could not be brought to take the authority upon his shoulders, and could do nothing more than demand an Aguinaldo pass from the Englishman, which unfortunately he did not possess. All parties were becoming exasperated and after more splashing about and slipping over paddy fields the naval officer returned to the launch; not, however, before admonishing the lieutenant to see that a pass was on board the *Powerful* by next morning. The warning did not go unheeded and next morning the launch and ship's boats loaded with marines and sailors went up the river and carried out the burial service. Considerable indignation is felt over the incident.

Aguinaldo seems to have suddenly grown very suspicious of all parties—Americans as well as others. The other day some Americans were travelling north on the railroad that runs from Manila to Dagupan. They were held and de-

tained for some time on the charge of being Spanish spies. This seems rather ridiculous, but it is true. There was a rumour, apparently well founded, that only those who held passes from Aguinaldo could go further north than Malolos—the headquarters. This morning I interviewed Mr. Higgins, the manager of the railroad, who said that no such cases had been reported to him. It is a fact, however, that soldiers enter the cars and carefully scrutinize the passengers. Besides these things, all is not going smoothly in the rebel camp itself. In Pampanga province and about the district of San José there are many natives who still are only on the outer edge of the new republic. These have been giving Aguinaldo's officers a good amount of worry and have never been quite docile. Last week reports reached Manila that they had organized and, urged on by the Spanish and the priests, were making a stand against the local officials. Parties who wished to visit the district and ascertain the truth of the matter were not allowed to proceed, and this seems to lend colour to the truth of the report.

Lieut. Haan's Battalion of Engineers has been busy on surveys and maps of all the river country surrounding Manila, and up to last Wednesday were free to go where they pleased, but on that day they were stopped and the men ordered back by the native officers. Lieut. Haan went to Malolos and laid the matter before Aguinaldo, who greatly regretted the interference and promised every privilege in the future. And so the story runs, now favourable, now doing unaccountable acts, apparently blown hither and thither, until it really begins to look as though the affairs of government are becoming a little too complicated, a little too delicate to be handled by those who have been doing so up to the present.

Thirty-five expert mining men arrived by the transport *Scandia*, who will thoroughly investigate the country for mineral wealth and make reports to the Government; besides these there are several old mining men who are only waiting until something definite is known about protection and property before going into the interior. One man arrived in Manila yesterday who wears a little nugget on his watch chain. He refuses to tell where it came from but merely says, "Oh I picked it up on a little trip to the south."

Paymaster Wilcox and Lieut. Sargent of the *Mondock* left for a month's trip into the interior on Saturday. They took with them eight pack horses loaded with provisions, instruments, and so on. It is expected that they will take copious notes on the country, the people, government, soldiers, and the general state of affairs. Aguinaldo has furnished them with his best quality passports and hopes that a satisfactory report will be given to Admiral Dewey.

A new paper under Spanish management has made its appearance. It is a sort of comic illustrated sheet called the *Kon Leche*. Dewey, Merritt, Aguinaldo, and soldiers of both sides are caricatured and the witticisms are rather doubtful, but so far it has not been disturbed.

The smallpox is still increasing, but very slowly. Every effort is being made to stamp out the disease in the beginning; the patients are kept in big hospital tents and around the enclosure a high wire fence has been erected. Fortunately we have had nearly a week of quite cool weather and it has caused the release of over two hundred fever patients.

Manila, 15th October.

Still another Hongkong exile has made himself famous and won a page in the short history of the Republica Filipina. Among the many natives who escaped to Hongkong during the turbulent times preceding the war was one Leyba. He comes of good family and devoted himself to the study of English; incidentally he became well known in athletics. In answer to the call of his General, he returned to Cavite on June 23rd and was given a lieutenant's commission. Before the Americans took Manila his successful work at Paranaque and Pampanga won him advancement to the rank of Major. In this capacity he was placed in charge of the captured steamer *Filipinas*, about September 19th, and sent to attack the cities at the extreme north of Luzon. This portion of the island has never

been under Spanish control, except a narrow strip along the coast. When the U.S.S. *Raleigh* visited this country some three weeks ago the people were not aware that Manila had fallen; they flew the Philippine flag but did not even know the American colours. The expedition was very successful. In Leyba's report to Aguinaldo he mentions the capture of 124 friars and lay brothers, many Spanish soldiers with their arms and property, and silver and valuables to the amount of \$800,000. The district of Cagayan is now completely under the control of the Insurgents. But while successful in the North, it has been quite different almost in the vicinity of Aguinaldo's stronghold at Malolos.

Just north of Pampanga province the natives have been giving Aguinaldo's soldiers more work than they can attend to. They have never recognized the General and still remain loyal to their old masters. When the Spanish fought there these natives fought with them and when defeated they withdrew to the mountains and outlying country. They have refused to pay any taxes or to recognize the Republic in any way. Many Philippinos travelling through their district have been taken prisoners, and they have driven the people out of the surrounding towns. This week an engagement occurred between these people and the Republic's soldiers in which the latter were considerably worsted. It is reported that a large force has been sent out to put down the offenders.

It is safe to say that the Philippine Congress is not missing any opportunity of collecting taxes or overlooking any district. Yet the natives do not seem to complain and as far as I have been able to find out the spirit of the country is not languishing in the least; it is increasing if there is any change at all. The interior is gradually being cultivated again and while there is very little money in circulation the taxes come in in the form of rice, sugar, and other products. Yesterday I visited Malolos and it was evident that a big haul had been made somewhere. Perhaps it came from Aparsi and Cagayan, but I was unable to find out. At any rate, several bullock carts were engaged in bringing up wicker sacks from the vicinity of the railroad, and each of the sacks contained \$1,000.

As time wears on and the decision of the Paris conference is still unknown, all sorts of rumours spring up and many find people who give them credit. The principal topic last night was this. One of these "private telegrams" had been received, *sub rosa* of course, which stated that the work of the conference was completed. The Cuban and Porto Rico questions were satisfactorily settled and Spain was to retain the Philippines and grant many reforms. For her guarantee of good order she would immediately dispatch the Cuban army to reinforce the present Spanish army here and these latter were to have their arms and ammunition returned—and so on. Strange as it may seem, hundreds of people apparently believed it implicitly. For some reason there was a great amount of cheering about the Escolta, especially in the saloons frequented by Spaniards, and this seemed to give confirmation to the fake telegram.

The Philippinos feel their position most keenly, and the more intelligent members are watching the telegrams, and especially the opinions expressed in the American papers, with the greatest interest. The editor of *La Independencia* has established an exchange with most of the leading American papers and quotes them freely. Day by day the tone of the articles leans more and more toward absolute independence, while the protectorate of the United States shrinks in importance.

In an interview held yesterday with two officials who stand very close to the President I was given to understand that nothing but independence would be acceptable to the people. Their tone, while friendly in all respects, sounds ominous for the future. Their names I have been asked to keep secret, but I expect before long, if the present tendency survives, that the bond of secrecy will be lifted without any objection. This attitude is very contrary to any that Aguinaldo has ever expressed; as a matter of fact he has always studiously avoided such suggestions of feeling. However, as I intimated last week, the "powers that be" are not quite

so capable of commanding to-day as they have been in the past. There are many ambitious men in the Philippine cabinet and congress and considerable pressure has lately been brought to bear on the executive. How will it all end? That is the ever present question, and the American answer has been—

"Wait until the Paris conference settles it." But during the last day or two the other side has slowly but surely been considering the matter from their own platform alone. The Insurgents have thirty-five thousand men armed and ammunitioned to-day. It is claimed they have received four rapid fire or machine guns, in addition to the two Maxims obtained early in September. They are now on the crest of the wave, and to advance or fall lies very much on their own conduct. Up to the present they have done remarkably well and have been controlled with most commendable skill; but will it last and stand the test, this somewhat weedy plot within a garden, this unrecognized baby republic within a republic? Contraband goods are not allowed to land in the Islands; arms *en route* are confiscated. The power exacting these things is at peace for a time with the former rulers, debating on other lost possessions to the disregard of the land in question for the present, while the natives wage war, carry fire arms everywhere outside of Manila, and assert themselves as bound up in a republic of their own. It is indeed a strange complication.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on 20th October. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present: the Vice-President (Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), Mr. J. Dyer Ball (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, and Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health and Acting Secretary).

MORE BYE-LAWS.

Proposed additional bye-laws for the regulation of cattle diseases, markets, and slaughter houses were remitted to the Colonial Secretary for the opinion of the Attorney-General.

THE FOREMEN SCAVENGERS AND THEIR PAY.

The papers relating to the petition of the foremen scavengers for an increase of pay having been re-circulated in accordance with a motion passed at the last meeting, Dr. Clark submitted the following additional particulars:

"The scale of pay of the foremen of street scavengers was fixed in 1886 at \$25 a month, rising in two years to \$30 a month, so that it would not be unreasonable to recommend them for some increment to compensate for the greatly enhanced cost of living now as compared with 12 years ago. The watchmen at the slaughterhouses, if not dispensed with, should also get better pay."

The VICE-PRESIDENT proposed that the application be forwarded to the Government for its favourable consideration in view of the increased cost of living since the salaries were fixed in 1886.

Mr. DYER BALL seconded.

Carried.

THE EUROPEAN QUARTERS AT THE CENTRAL MARKET.

A. Watson, assistant inspector of markets, drew attention to his application dated 7th Jan., 1898, for rent allowance in lieu of the quarters in the Central Market and stated that even after improvements made by the Public Works Department they were still unsuitable and unhealthy, adding: "During the summer months the heat in the day time has been fearful, and if the windows were opened the stench off the foreshore in front and from the fowls in market at the rear was equally bad. I have been under doctor's treatment most of the time I have occupied those quarters and so has my daughter. She has been so long bad that Dr. Thomson ordered a change to some other place."

A letter from Mr. Ladds supported the application and recommended that an allowance of \$30 per month be granted in lieu of quarters.

Hon. R. D. Ormsby minuted—"I am strongly

opposed to granting the application. The quarters are very good, and though it is unfortunate that they do not agree with the present inspector's health and the health of his family, that is not sufficient reason for abandoning them. I hope members of the Board will try and inspect them before we next meet."

The CHAIRMAN said he had inspected the quarters and he did not think them suitable for a married man. They might suit a single man.

Mr. OSBORNE—I inspected these quarters about three days ago. I find that they consist of two floors. The bottom floor is in close proximity to the fowl pens and the stench from them enters through the back window. I do not think the bottom floor is suitable for any white man to live in.

Mr. DYER BALL said he did not consider the quarters suitable for a European.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said he had been waiting to hear the opinion of the unofficial member (Mr. Osborne) on these quarters. He had not spoken to him on the subject but he endorsed his verdict. He (the Vice-President) did not consider the quarters suitable for a European. They might do for a coloured man or a Chinese.

Mr. OSBORNE said he spoke with some experience on this matter because he lived on this very site for seven years and could understand what the Inspector's trials were. He proposed "that in the opinion of the Board the quarters provided for the Inspector of markets are unsuitable, in their present condition, for a European to live in and nothing can be done to make them fit; the Board therefore recommend that the Inspector be allowed \$30 a month in lieu of the quarters."

Dr. CLARK seconded.

Carried.

WATCHMEN AT THE SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Mr. C. Vivian Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) submitted a further report concerning the watchmen at the slaughterhouses, in which he says:—

"The duties of the four men whom I consider can now be dispensed with are as follow: One man is on duty every night at the Cattle Depot from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. His instructions are to see that all goes on well in the depot, but when it is known that these premises are locked up nightly by the inspector in charge and not opened by him until the next morning there seems to me but little need of a watchman's services, especially when the owners of animals housed therein are allowed to have one resident caretaker upon the premises should they wish it, but which privilege they do not often avail themselves of."

"The other three men are stationed at the City Slaughterhouse upon continuous duty for eight hours each. Their duties are to see that no cattle or sheep enter the slaughterhouse unless bearing the official mark (a broad arrow) showing their fitness to be slaughtered for human food. Now as a system of also marking the beef and mutton before it is allowed to leave the slaughterhouse has lately been introduced, and which system bye-law No. 30 of schedule D of Ordinance 17 of 1887 when passed will protect the European inspector in charge whose duty it is to mark this meat can very easily and effectually check the number of carcasses so marked against the number of animals which he has passed up that day for slaughter, and thus do away with the necessity of keeping the three watchmen about the place any longer. In the improbable event of the inspector finding that the number of carcasses to be marked exceeded the number of animals which had been passed up for slaughter, he has then another reliable check at hand by causing the skins of the animals just slaughtered to be produced and the broad arrow mark which should be thereon pointed out."

"When the additional bye-laws to Ordinance 17 of 1887 recommended by me becomes law it will then be to the interest of the butchers to see that their meat gets marked by the inspector before it leaves the slaughterhouse; otherwise on reaching the markets it would be seized by the market inspector."

"Considering the responsibility imposed upon each of the inspectors I think the Board will see how very necessary it is that they should be well-paid officials and thus placed out of reach of the many temptations to which men of this class are constantly exposed."

"It is not necessary for me to enter into de-

tals upon the subject of the numerous attempts at corruption which have come to my knowledge during a long experience in charge of these places, but I again repeat that in my opinion these officers' salaries should rise by incremental stages to \$150 per month each, and granted this I am confident that better results would be obtained than if the Board retained a large staff of useless watchmen, as I do not think that any amount of increases of salary would ever place them above suspicion. Hence my reason for recommending that part of the \$90 per month which would be saved to the Government if the watchmen were dispensed with should be applied to increasing the salaries of the inspectors."

The following minutes were appended:—

Hon. R. D. Ormsby—"I agree with the C. V. S. that the four watchmen are no longer necessary and their services should be dispensed with."

The Vice-President—"The check mentioned first is useless because an animal that had not been passed can be substituted for one that had been marked and thus passed on for slaughter and slaughtered although unfit for food. The second check mentioned is better, but unless the hides are tanned each morning or evening with the carcasses and then destroyed it is untrustworthy, because marked skins could be kept to do duty for unmarked ones. The only efficient check is an honest man at the door, or as honest a man as you can get, closely supervised by a European. Are the existing watchmen supervised?"

Mr. Ladds—" (1) Admitting that an unmarked animal might be passed up and killed, what would become of the marked animal for which it was substituted, when the inspector came to check the carcasses to be stamped against the number of animals which he had marked and passed up for slaughter that day? (2) No reason to destroy the hides to perfect this check—anyone could tell the difference between a fresh skin and an old one. It would be a very difficult matter to carry out either of the Vice-President's suggestions successfully. The butchers would soon find that the game was not worth the candle. (3) Theoretically this is the better plan, but practical experience teaches me that it is easier to talk of the honest watchman than to find him. (4) Unless the existing watchmen were under my supervision I should not be in a position to report upon their conduct."

Dr. CLARK proposed that a committee consisting of the Vice-President and Mr. Osborne be appointed to make further enquiries into the matter.

Mr. DYER BALL seconded.

Carried.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health) submitted the following report concerning the prevention of hydrophobia:—

"I have the honour to direct the attention of the Sanitary Board to the question of hydrophobia (rabies), as I venture to think that the matter is one that intimately concerns the preservation of the public health, and therefore falls within the province of the Board."

"The series of deaths which have recently occurred at Shanghai from this cause has naturally directed the attention of the public to this question, and I am of opinion that the Government of this colony should without delay take such steps to restrict the importation of dogs as will suffice to protect the community from this disease."

"The stringent regulations which are enforced in Singapore and which have been more lately introduced in England would if also adopted here afford ample protection, and I beg to recommend that the Board should urge upon the Government the speedy enactment of similar restrictions in this colony."

"It is now happily some four years since a death occurred here from hydrophobia, there having been one—a European—in 1894 and three—one European and two Chinese—in 1893, but it should not be necessary to wait until the disease is introduced into this colony before action is taken and the near proximity of the port of Shanghai with the constant communication between that port and our own afford ample grounds for taking immediate action in the matter."

The following minutes were appended:—

Mr. Osborne—"If the proposed regulations are to be enforced against all alike—including Chinese works—the suggestion is an excellent one."

Hon. R. D. Ormsby—"I agree with the proposal of the M.O.H."

Mr. Ball—"I agree. It is most important that the colony should be protected from the introduction of hydrophobia."

The Vice-President—"I should like to see a copy of the regulations or a draft of any proposed regulations for Hongkong before I give my opinion. The regulations at home are too stringent for here."

Dr. CLARK said he had written to Singapore for a copy of the regulations in force there and he would ask that the matter be allowed to stand over till these were received.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—"They are very strict in Singapore."

Dr. CLARK—"There is no reason why we should not be as strict here."

The matter was allowed to stand over.

AN APPLICATION FROM THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

An application was received from the Hongkong Hotel for permission to erect six more water closets in one of the wings of the hotel. On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by Dr. CLARK, the application was granted.

MORTALITY RETURNS.

The returns for Hongkong for the week ended Oct. 8th show the death rate to be 15.2 against 17.4 for the previous week and 17.8 for the corresponding week last year. The returns for the week ended Oct. 15th show the death rate to be 21.1 against 16.3 for the corresponding week last year.

The returns for Macao show that the deaths for the week ended Oct. 9th were 47.

RESCUE FROM A DISABLED JUNK.

THE JUNK SET ON FIRE.

The China Mutual steamer *Hyson*, which arrived yesterday from Singapore, reports that on Sunday, 16th October, about 9.15 a.m. in lat. 16.58 N., long. 113.33 E., the wind blowing strong from the N.N.E. with a very high sea running, she sighted what appeared to be a dismasted junk about six miles on the starboard beam. Kept ship away and found it to be a junk seventeen days out from Foochow and bound to Chin Chew. She had been fifteen days dismasted. There were thirty-three hands on board, three of whom were passengers. The port life-boat was lowered and pulled to the junk. Thirty-one men were rescued, one man having died on board the junk, and the captain died after being rescued. The others were in an exhausted condition, having been without water for eight days. Before leaving, the junk was set on fire.

The burning junk was passed by the *Kawachi Maru* about eight o'clock the same evening. The *Sachsen* also reports:—On the 17th, at 8 a.m., in lat. 16.30 N., long. 113.50 E., sighted a burning vessel, sailing ship supposed to be, which was burnt out for the most part. Steamed slowly around her and continued our way at 3.40 a.m., there being no boats or human life to be seen.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

On 18th Oct. at noon the 17th ordinary general meeting of shareholders was held at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co. The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving occupied the chair, and there were also present the Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, D. Gubbay, and S. G. Bird, consulting committee; Mr. G. F. Veitch, secretary; Messrs. E. C. Emmett, J. C. Peter, J. H. Cox, R. M. Mehta, R. C. Wilcox, J. H. Lewis, K. Mackenzie Ross, W. J. Gresson, V. A. Caesar Hawkins, Ho Fook, Ho Kom Tong, Lo Cheung Shiu, Chan San, B. Byramjee, and Wong Cheong Yuen.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I propose with your permission to treat the report and statement of accounts, which have been in your hands for some days, as read. It is a matter of extreme regret to the general

agents and the consulting committee to come before you to-day with so poor a report of the working for last year. This unfortunate result is to be accounted for mainly by the exceptionally large number of casualties to first class risks (similar risks we would without hesitation again accept), and also to a continuous reduction in rates of premium, which have now reached a point making it extremely difficult to work at a profit. Amongst underwriters the opinion is strongly expressed that an advance in rates must take place before long.

I sincerely trust this will be the case, although at present I see but slight indications of anything of the kind. In order to meet the deficiency in the working, we have had to withdraw the sum of \$150,000 from the reserve fund, which still stands at \$1,150,000, and I think our policy in the past of building up a strong reserve will have commended itself to you.

As regards the current year's working, it opened badly; heavy losses having been sustained by the wrecks of the *China* and *Mataura* and a serious fire at the Kobe Pier. Our premium income shows a fair increase, but the losses and average are heavy.

With not more than an average of losses during the next 3 or 4 months we trust that when next meeting you, the report will be a much more favourable one. Since the report was issued, I am pleased to state that no losses of any importance have occurred in which the company was interested. There is one paragraph in the report, that referring to the payment of future dividends, which perhaps calls for an explanation.

Hitherto we have declared an interim dividend on the 1st January and a final dividend about this date. The transfer books have to be closed for a certain time before the dividend is paid, and as there is only a period of a little over a couple of months between the two payments a great deal of work will be saved; in addition also we shall know exactly where we are, and not anticipate profits which unfortunately as in the present instance, have not been realized. Our surveyors here and at Shanghai have made their usual annual reports and valuations of the properties held on mortgage by the office; these are quite satisfactory, there being ample margins in every case. These are all the remarks I have to make. I will be pleased to answer any questions before moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

No questions being asked the report and statement of accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. Cox.

On the motion of Mr. PETTER, seconded by Mr. HO FOOK, the appointment of Mr. S. G. Bird to the seat rendered vacant by Mr. F. Maitland's departure from the colony was confirmed, and Messrs. Chater, Dalrymple, Gillies, Gubbay, and Bird were re-elected consulting committee.

On the motion of Mr. BYRAMJEE, seconded by Mr. MEHTA, Messrs. F. Henderson and W. H. Potts were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is everything, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be sent out tomorrow. Thank you for coming here.

UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.

The twenty-fifth ordinary meeting of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, was held on 20th Oct. at the Society's office. Mr. C. S. Sharp presided and there were also present Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple, N. A. Sieba, E. S. Wheller (Director), W. J. Sanders (Acting Secretary), C. H. Thompson, A. McConachie, J. H. Cox, R. C. Wilcox, Hunter, Carvalho, C. H. Rogge, A. V. Apcar, J. C. Peter, E. C. Lane, and Alvares.

The Acting Secretary read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report was published on the 27th September and I proposed with your permission to follow the usual course and take it as read. The accounts explain themselves and although the result of the year 1897 is not a particularly good one in comparison with previous years the directors think that the shareholders are to be congratulated on its not being worse. The premium shows an increase of \$260,000 as compared with 1896, but on the other hand the losses show an increase of \$253,000. The percentage of profit has not been so large and the directors are unable to recommend a further bonus to shareholders.

butors beyond the 20 per cent. already paid. The interest account for the year amounts to \$168,000, which is almost sufficient to pay the dividend of \$17 per share recommended in the report. Shareholders must not think, however, that they are getting nothing out of the under-writing account. A very considerable portion of the interest is earned on the premium in hand on the current year's working. The working account balances shown in the present report amount to no less than \$1,290,000, nearly all of which is bearing interest. I hope you will also approve of the addition of \$40,000 to the reserve fund, as it is only by additions to reserve fund that the gradual increase in the annual dividend can be kept up permanently and the Society's resources strengthened. I believe it is generally admitted that the year 1897 has been a bad year for marine under-writers all over the world. Rates of premium have been lower than ever and the losses of really first-class steamers have been more numerous than usual, more especially perhaps in the Eastern trades. The Society has been fortunate in being able to increase its premium income notwithstanding the low rates and also in not being more largely interested in the losses. The figures for 1898 are so far very favourable, but it is impossible to forecast the final result at such an early stage. There is one item in the working account on which I would like to say a few words, namely, "head office charges." These shew an increase of \$29,000 in the final account for 1897 and an increase of \$15,000 in the first 6 months of 1898. This increase is accounted for by the payment of a bonus of £4,000 to Mr. N. J. Ede, our late Secretary, on his retirement, £2,500 having been charged to 1897 account and £1,500 to 1898 account. Mr. Ede was Secretary in 1874 when the Society was reconstructed on a permanent basis and had held the post continuously from that time until his retirement last May. During this time from a small Company with a paid-up capital of \$250,000 and no reserve fund the Society has risen to its present position. The capital has been doubled, a reserve fund of \$1,300,000 accumulated and the annual dividend has reached a figure which comes to 34 per cent on the present capital or 58 per cent on the original capital. The directors trust the shareholders will agree with them in thinking that Mr. Ede could not be allowed to retire without some substantial recognition of his services and that the shareholders will approve of their fixing the amount at £4,000. There are no other features in the account that require any particular comment. The exchange fluctuation account shews a satisfactory increase and the investment fluctuation account a decrease which is accounted for chiefly by a slight fall in the market value of the best sterling securities since the date of our last balance sheet. On the other side of the account the Society's holding in rupee paper has been reduced during the year by Rs. 350,000 and the amount has been invested in sterling. I shall be glad to answer any questions you may wish to ask before I propose the adoption of the report.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts.

Mr. McCONACHIE.—The period covered by the accounts now before us was characterized by more than ordinary losses on first-class risks. It is therefore most satisfactory that you are able to lay before us once more such an excellent report. You pay us the handsome dividend of \$17 per share, which I think should satisfy the most exacting. You return a bonus of 20 per cent. to contributors and you add \$40,000 to the reserve. On such results as these, especially during such a difficult period, I think the board, the secretary, our London agents, and agents generally deserve our congratulations. I am glad to learn and see by the accounts, that our late secretary, Mr. Ede, was not allowed to retire without his splendid management of the Society for such a long period being substantially recognized and that you voted him a bonus of £4,000, which I feel sure every shareholder will approve of. That the Society's premium income, notwithstanding low rates, continues to increase and that the figures for 1898 so far are very favourable, speaks well for the careful and able management of our Acting Secretary, Mr. Saunders, and so long as the Society has

such men as Douglas Jones and W. J. Saunders to fall back upon shareholders may well feel comfortable as to the future of this flourishing Society. I may add that I have seen a detailed list of our sterling investments, and I am glad to say they are all, without exception, gilt edged. With these remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts.

Carried.

Mr. THOMPSON proposed that Messrs. H. L. Dalrymple and N. A. Siebs be re-elected directors.

Mr. HUNTER seconded.

Carried.

Mr. BYRAMJEE proposed that Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Potts be re-elected auditors.

Mr. ALVAREZ seconded.

Carried.

Mr. SAUNDERS said—Before concluding the meeting I have some remarks to make regarding the speech of Mr. McConachie. I have had nothing to do with the prosperity of 1897.

Mr. McCONACHIE—My remarks appertain to 1898.

Mr. SAUNDERS—The secretariat business of the Society is chiefly to keep the machinery oiled. We leave the agents at the branches to make the profits, which they do.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be issued to-morrow.

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

Messrs. Lutgers, Einstmann & Co., General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, forward us the following report received from the manager at the mines:—

17th October, 1898.

Great Eastern Mine.—The drive north is in 79 feet and the reef is keeping its width; without that we have touched the proper foot wall. The latter may not be so defined at the present level as it was above, but we have the same smooth hanging wall going with us as we are driving along. The reef looks well and carries a strong seam of mineral, which should be a good indication of gold. As we have opened out a large body of ore already, I am now employing three men for the time being to put in a rise, prior to commencing to stope the ore out.

Zulu Mine.—I am pushing on with all possible speed to get the drives in. Three shifts are driving north and I have also started three shifts south on the reef. The drive north is in 6 feet, the ground very hard, but our reef continues to show rich gold. A great deal of development work must be done of course before we can know how long this rich run of gold will last.

Rice and Shine Shaft.—This is down to 119 feet and we have a fine reef in the bottom, which is showing 2½ feet in the shaft, but which may be much wider, like in the upper level, and it is underlaying into the hill. It carries good gold, seems to bear in a northerly direction, and promises to become a second Zulu. It must be the same reef, as the quartz is almost identical. The ground is getting very hard and the country rock is now the same as what we met with in the other mine.

Bank of England.—We have recovered the big reef in the hanging wall, and although we have driven 6 feet into it we have not reached the other wall yet. Gold can be seen in the stone when brought up and this mine promises exceedingly well. I shall push work on here also as fast as possible.

Caledonian Mine.—We have driven north on the lode, and are now in 8 feet, with the reef showing strongly in the face. It is about 2½ feet wide, and carries gold and mineral. I cannot say, however, much about it before we have driven another 20 feet, when no doubt it will be the same wide lode as in the old workings. The last few feet have shown a great improvement. I shall, as soon as possible, let a contract here.

All our shafts make a quantity of water, but whilst it of course gives us a lot of trouble, it is also a boon to us; as the position of all our mines to the dam enables us to run the water into the latter, thereby averting the danger of any possible shortage.

The bridge over the dam is finished and the contractor has turned out a good job.

Office nearly finished.

The excavations are nearing completion, and the erection of the battery is being vigorously proceeded with.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB V. THE NAVY.

Teams representing the Hongkong Cricket Club and the Navy met on Saturday. The Club won the toss and Campbell and Hancock were sent to the wickets. The partnership was not, however, of long duration, Hancock being caught before he had broken his "duck" and when four only had been scored. Moberley followed, but his life was also very short, being bowled by Bedwell when he had raised the total to eight. Dyson, who next partnered Campbell, held on until 23 had been put on. Burnie was dismissed at 45, Lowe at 49, the sixth wicket to fall being that of Campbell, who was responsible for a well-played 33. At this point things did not look very rosy for the Club, who had only 51 to their credit. They subsequently pulled up, however, the seventh wicket falling at 86, the eighth at 126, the ninth at 162, and the tenth at 179. Lethbridge was a tower of strength for the club. He carried out his bat for 68, which included five 4's, two 3's, and fourteen 2's, the rest being singles. Benn and Salter batted first for the Navy. They opened well, notching 28 points before Arthur separated them by stumping Benn. Salter followed his partner to the pavilion with the score still at 28. Bedwell and Nugent were then together. The former stuck well, compiling the highest score—34—for the Navy, his wicket being the eighth to fall. The score had then reached 126. In the meantime the third wicket (Nugent's) fell at 47, the fourth (Hastings') at 58, the fifth (Dormer's) at 81, the sixth (Bowden Smith's) at 107, and the seventh (Elliott's) at 120. The ninth man was out at 151, and five more only had been compiled when the tenth succumbed, leaving the Club the winners by 23. Scores—

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

Lt. G. D. Campbell, H.K.R., b Elliott	33
H. Hancock, c Hastings, b Bedwell	0
Lt. Moberley, H.K.R., b Bedwell	4
Capt. Dyson, A.P.D., c Nugent, b Gill	3
C. M. G. Burnie, c and b Bedwell	4
A. R. Lowe, 1 b.w., b Bedwell	0
Capt. Langhorne, R.A., c Benn, b Gill	13
Lieut. Lethbridge, K.O.R., not out	68
Dr. Lawson, c Hickley, b Gill	17
A. S. Anton, c Bowden Smith, b Benn	22
H. Arthur, b Benn	5
Extras	10
Total	179

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
Gill	18	4	48	—	—	8
Bedwell	21	5	63	—	—	4
Elliot	9	3	27	—	—	1
J.F.A. Hastings	10	2	22	—	—	—
Benn	4.3	1	9	—	—	2
Extras						
Total						179

THE NAVY.

Mr. E. P. Benn, R.N., st. Arthur, b Burnie	8
Mr. A. V. Salter, R.N., b Lethbridge	16
Mr. H. Bedwell, R.N., c and b Lethbridge	34
Lieut. R. A. Nugent, R.N., 1.b.w., b Burnie	16
Mr. J. F. Hastings, R.N., c Moberley, b Lawson	6
Lieut. O. Dormer, R.N., c and b Langhorne	14
Lt. Bowden Smith, R.N., c Dyson, b Lethbridge	15
Mr. H. Elliott, R.N., b Burnie	4
Lieut. S. A. Hickley, R.N., b Lawson	17
Mr. Gill, R.N., st. Arthur, b Lawson	12
Lieut. R. Dalgety, R.N., not out	2
Extras	10
Total	156

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B.	Wickets.
Lethbridge	23	6	51	—	—	3
Burnie	14	3	45	—	4	3
Hancock	4	3	7	—	—	—
Lawson	6.4	1	14	—	—	3
Langhorne	9	2	16	—	—	1
Lowe	4	3	1	—	—	—
Campbell	4	—	12	—	—	—
Extras						
Total						156

In a previous issue of our paper, says the Nagasaki Press, it was stated that a large amount of silver yen had been exported by the Specie Bank for Hongkong to meet the demands in the market there. It is now stated that silver yen to the amount of 1,200,000 yen was also exported from Yokohama on the 3rd inst. for the same destination.

SHOOTING.

The Volunteers experienced a severe defeat at the hands of the Royal Engineers in a match Carbines v. Lee-Metfords. The match took place on the Association range and the distances were 200, 400, and 500 yards, ten men a side, and the highest eight totals to count. As will be seen by the scores, the R.E. won by 90 points. Perhaps no better argument could be put forward than this match for the re-armament of the Volunteer Corps. Nothing more condemnatory could be advanced on these old arms than a glance at the poor scores of a capital team. With the exception of Donaldson (a rising shot) not a single man shot up to his ordinary average, and this was put down entirely to bad carbines and bad ammunition. "Missfires" and bursting cases happened several times, handicapping the Volunteers considerably. Apart, however, from bad armament, the Volunteers met with a superior team and probably will take a lesson in steadiness in firing. The R.E. men got together the strongest team the Volunteers have had the pleasure of opposing, and the thrashing was given and taken in a very friendly spirit. Sergt. Bowery at the finish of the match expressed a wish that the teams would meet again next month under better circumstances and a hope that by that time the Hongkong Volunteer Corps would have their new arms. A return match is being arranged for after the camp. The following are the scores:

ROYAL ENGINEERS.	
Sergeant M. Wallace	93
Corporal Ramsden	91
Corporal Eddy	90
Sergeant Bowery	89
Corporal Cotton	88
Sergeant M. Humphreys	85
Sapper Clarke	85
Sapper Norris	82
	703

VOLUNTEERS.	
Corporal Skelton	88
Gunner Donaldson	84
Sergeant McPhail	82
Sergeant Lammert	82
Bomdr. Hart	76
Sergeant Rutter	69
Lieutenant McDonald	66
B.-S.M. Duncan	66
	613

CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE VOLUNTEER ROUTE MARCH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—I noticed the paragraph in your Monday morning's issue stating that the Volunteer route march fixed for Saturday had been abandoned after the men had been brought on parade, thereby causing some disappointment. As no reason was given for the Commandant's action in dismissing the Corps I will suggest one. Over sixty of the Field Battery and Band were present and the four guns allotted to the former (not including the Dock Detachment) were fully manned, with a few numbers to spare. Of course it was not to be expected that the Maxim Gun Co. would be largely represented and as it was ten men turned up to man eight guns (the number parked). This I believe to be the real reason why the Commandant became so disgusted and abandoned the march. To see ten gunners forming up in front of eight Maxim guns would dishearten even the Corps poodle.

This brings me to the inefficient armament of the Field Battery as compared with the Maxim Gun Co. The latter never has been, and probably never will be, brought up to its full strength as far as numbers are concerned, and the guns are consequently lying idle in the armoury. On the other hand there are sufficient men in the Field Battery to form at least six more detachments and if the whole had been on parade on Saturday there would have been no guns (that is 7-prs.) for them to work. On any big parade—a target practice at

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camp for instance—there are frequently more "supernumeraries" than there are men working on the guns. I would suggest either the creation of a "B" Machine Gun Company with the surplus men of the Field Battery or the addition of six 7-pr. guns to the battery.

I repeat my conviction that the real reason for the abandonment of Saturday's march was the meagre show made by the Maxims, but it is hardly fair that those who did turn up should have been made to suffer. A word from the Commandant would have satisfied the men.—Yours faithfully.

F.B. GUNNER.

Hongkong, 18th October, 1898.

THE NEW EMPEROR.

It is reported in well-informed circles that the Empress Dowager and the members of the Imperial Clan have definitely selected an adopted son of the late Emperor Tung-chih as the successor of H.M. Kwang Hsu, and that he will be proclaimed Emperor at an early date, when it will be declared that the selection of Kwang Hsu was a mistake from the beginning and has brought unprecedented disasters upon China.—*China Gazette*.

THE MOBBING OF FOREIGNERS IN PEKING.

We (*N. C. Daily News*) have kindly been permitted to publish the following extract from a private letter from Peking dated the 1st of October:

"A mob attacked Dr. Lowry and Bishop Cranston's family as they were returning from the station yesterday. Dr. Lowry was considerably bruised and had several cuts on his face, in addition to which it was thought one of his ribs was broken. Mrs. Cranston and her eldest daughter were riding in chairs, which were considerably damaged and contained a good deal of mud and broken glass, but fortunately the occupants escaped without personal injury, other than severe nervous shock. The other two daughters and Miss Mabel Lowry were in carts and were very badly shaken, owing to the mules running away. An English lady and gentleman, the latter the accountant of the British Legation, were also attacked and injured. Assaults were also committed on a Japanese gentleman, a French Jesuit priest, and the wife of the Italian Minister, so it is a matter for international consideration. It has been a great shock to Bishop Cranston and his family."

BRITISH MARINES TURNED OUT OF THE TRAIN AT TIENSIN.

THEY GROW RESTIVE UNDER THE JEERS OF THE POPULACE.

We have already published the information that the departure from Tientsin of the British, Russian, and German legation guards was delayed owing to the opposition of the Chinese authorities. The following letter, dated 4th October (which we translate from the *Echo de Chine*), written before the departure took place, gives interesting details of how the delay was occasioned:

In consequence of the incidents which took place at Peking on the 30th September (the mobbing of foreigners), with which you are already acquainted, the Legations, unable to tolerate being at the mercy of the Peking populace, telegraphed to the Admirals commanding the fleets in the Yellow Sea to land at Tongku as quickly as possible a few pickets to be sent to Peking via Tientsin by rail. In accordance with this order there arrived at Tientsin fifty men from the British fleet with two Maxims. They were billeted at the Temperance Hall. The British Legation gave orders that part were to be sent to Peking the following day by the 11.30 a.m. train. The Acting Viceroy of Chihli, General Yuan, notified the British Consulate on the 3rd October that although the Chinese Government had permitted the disembarkation and transit to Tientsin of British soldiers it must take time to consider the advisability of their being sent to Peking and he consequently requested the Consul to

await the receipt of instructions from Peking before sending the men to the capital.

The Consul and the attaché of the Legation who was assisting him did not consider that they ought to take notice of this advice, and this morning, at eight o'clock, the transfer of the soldiers and the baggage to the Tientain station was commenced. Information having been conveyed to the Viceroy he had, at half-past ten, placards in large Chinese characters posted at the station stating that the ordinary train service of the Imperial Railway to Peking would convey only civilian passengers and their baggage and would not undertake the transport of foreign soldiers and their baggage, and that consequently the latter could only travel on the line by special permission of the Chinese Government, to whom the line belonged, and that the station master had been ordered not to allow the departure for Peking of any train having foreign troops on board not provided with the necessary permit. The British were embarrassed. At last, learning that even if they compelled the departure of the train by force they would find the gates of Peking closed and a strong military opposition, they judged it more prudent, the party only consisting of thirty, to take the men and baggage out of the train, which was done amidst the mocking laughter of the crowd of Chinese who had gathered on the platform. Afterwards the Tongku train came in with sixty Russian blue-jackets and Cossacks (the latter with their horses), who had arrived from Port Arthur, nominally by order of a Russian Admiral but actually under command of Colonel de Wogack, who looked imposing in his uniform. He placed a picket in charge of the horses in a corner of the station and the rest of the force took up their quarters in the godown of the firm Olivier, de Langenagen & Co., being accompanied as far as the door by thousands of gaping Chinese. The staff was installed in the Russian military mission at Tientsin.

The agent of the firm Olivier, de Langenagen & Co., M. Debeanchamp, had to multiply himself and become military intendant for the supply to sixty-seven men and the horses at the station of provisions, bedding, etc., etc.

Before the arrival of the Russians and after the British had got out of the carriages the train left for Peking, with only civilians on board, nearly an hour-and-a-half late. There were a few European passengers, amongst them being M. Mulkay, the Peking agent of the Cockerill Co. It appeared that the strictest order prevailed at Peking and that the Chinese Government had taken the necessary measures to restrain the population and assure the protection of foreigners.

The arrival of German soldiers at Tientsin is expected to-morrow, and a little later that of French marines, who are to be sent to Peking to guard the legations.

It is possible that the Chinese Government, satisfied with the moral effect obtained, will to-morrow remove its veto on the sending of foreign soldiers to Peking, for it knows very well that the latter will in any case have the last word. The attaché of the British legation has returned to Peking. It is probable that the Minister will make the Tsung-li Yamen listen to reason. In the contrary case there will be here in a few days five or six thousand European soldiers, who will take care of the rest.

5th October.

I confirm my letter of yesterday. Nothing new to-day. The new Viceroy of Chihli was installed this morning with a salute of cannon. General Yuan having been only acting. It appears that the English soldiers on returning to the town yesterday, furious at what had happened, distributed a few cuffs and blows with the butt-ends of their rifles to the Chinese boobies. It would have required little more to make them go a good deal further. The Russians have taken their horses and guns to Olivier, de Langenagen & Co.'s godowns. It is possible that all these troops may leave to-morrow together with the Germans, who are expected to-day. Nothing is known for certain on the subject.

A squadron circular issued by Admiral Dewey fixes the value of the Mexican dollar for the quarter ending 31st December at \$0.474 gold.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

Peking, 11th October.

THE MOST POWERFUL SUBJECT IN CHINA.
I, the Dowager-Empress Tze-hsi-tuan-yu, etc., etc., hereby acknowledge the receipt of the Grand Secretary Jung Lu's memorial reporting the date of his receipt of the Great Seal of Office appointing him Generalissimo of the armies of Chihli province and the Peiyang Administration, and the consequent taking over of the said post by him. Now as the times are exceedingly critical the organising and disciplining of armies is a matter of the first importance and to emphasise Jung Lu's post I am constrained to further appoint him Imperial High Commissioner with supreme command over the Yi Army Corps, under General Lung Ch'ing (at Newchwang and Shanhauku); the Kansu Army Corps, under General Tung Fu-hsiang (just inside the Great Wall); the Wu Yi Army corps, under General Nieh Sze-ch'eng, Provincial Commander-in-chief of Chihli (at Lutai, south of the Tongshau colliery); the New Army Corps, under the expectant Vice-President of a Board, Yuan Shih-kai (at Hsiaochan, near Tientsin); and the various corps, military and naval, in the Peiyang Administration. This will place the forces around Peking under the command of a single head, and the said Jung Lu, having been given such a highly responsible post is expected to use every effort in personally attending to the welfare and good discipline of his troops so that they may form a powerful army at the call of the Throne.

[Note: This gives Jung Lu the power of life and death over the highest general to the lowest soldier in the ranks under him, by virtue of which he may execute first and report afterwards the matter to the Empress-Dowager.]

THE ABOLISHED GOVERNORSHIPS.

I, the Empress-Dowager, Tze-hsi-tuan-yu, etc., etc., hereby issue this decree: The posts of Governors of Kuangtung, Hupeh, and Yunnan have already been abolished and all their duties amalgamated with those of the Viceroys concerned. It is my desire, however, to know whether such a step is feasible or not, and therefore I command the Grand Council and the Six Boards to deliberate over the question and immediately report thereon to me.

[Note: It would, of course, be to the advantage, pecuniarily speaking, of the various Boards to retain these Governorships, for it is perhaps not generally known that all the high provincial authorities, taotais, prefects, and district magistrates have to pay a large amount, quarterly, according to the "fatness" of the posts, to each of the six Boards, including the secretaries in them. It is therefore probably a foregone conclusion that these three Governorships will be restored.]

PROSCRIPTION OF SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

I, the Empress-Dowager, Tze-hsi-tuan-yu, etc., etc., hereby issue the following decree:—There has always been a law forbidding the establishment of societies of any sort, but of late it appears that a number of officials, gentry, and literati have been in the habit of joining secret societies and banded associations, regardless of their reputations. These societies declare that their primary object is to exhort people to do good but as a matter of fact their object is to band together for the purpose of disturbing the peace. The danger through it is indeed great. The Governors and Viceroys of provinces are therefore commanded to diligently search for these associations, arrest the members, and punish them according to their respective responsibilities as chiefs and followers. The property, if any, of such societies is also to be sealed up and confiscated to government, and the high authorities are expected to do this duty in a perfectly impartial spirit so that the members of these traitorous societies may tremble and be afraid! Let this edict be published far and wide.

[Note: The fate meted out to chiefs of secret societies is summary execution, while the least responsible are banished into perpetual exile. This decree will be a grand harvest to the reactionists and corrupt mandarins and their underlings!—N. C. Daily News.]

We hear of a letter received by the Australian mail on Saturday only being delivered on Monday morning.

THE MURDER OF CHANG YIN-HUAN.

Peking, 12th October.

It is reported from a reliable quarter in Peking that the Empress Dowager has, after all, compassed the death of Chang Yin-huan in spite of the appeal for mercy on his behalf by the British and Japanese Ministers. It is stated that Chang's death had always been intended, so that even while leaving the Western gate of the capital there was in Chang's train, consisting of himself in a mule litter, two servants and a cook, and a guard of ten soldiers under a captain, an extra man, a runner belonging to the Board of Punishments, carrying on his person Chang's death warrant.

This warrant was to be executed at a distance from Peking where the victim would not be known, so that his death by strangulation would not excite the people, and the news would be prevented from getting to Peking. But the runner apparently was impatient and executed his orders when only four days' journey from Peking. Another reason was that one of Chang's body servants managed to escape the fate destined for his master and the three servants, and hence the news of the unfortunate official's death. Only a few persons, outside of the Empress-Dowager's advisers, know of this and no one dares to talk openly of it at present.—N. C. Daily News.

ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING AT WUHU.

Our correspondent writes under date October 11th:—Various inflammatory placards have been posted throughout the Settlement, the Catholic Church being used as a bill-hoarding among other places. The placards call upon the people to rise and rid themselves of the hated foreigner, to burn down all foreign houses, and to destroy the French Church buildings, particularly the Cathedral. The usual anti-foreign invectives are written with a liberal pen all through the placard.

The foreign community of Wuhu does not feel in the least alarmed, but they are fully prepared for any contingency that may arise.

H. M. S. *Essex* was at Wuhu on the 6th inst., and the *Algerine* is at Hankow.—Mercury.

THE SUPPRESSION OF NEWS-PAPERS IN CHINA.

The following translation of an Imperial decree is published by the *N. C. Daily News*:—As newspapers only serve to excite the masses to subvert the present order of things and the editors concerned are composed of the dregs of the literary classes, no good can be served by the continuation of such dangerous instruments and we hereby command the entire suppression and sealing up of all newspapers published within the Empire, while the editors connected with them are to be arrested and punished with the utmost severity of the law.

THE LU-HAN RAILWAY.

Though it is now nearly four months since the contract for the Lu-Han Railway with the so-called Belgian Syndicate was signed, the first instalment of the loan, which was due a month after the signing of the document, has never been paid over, and there does not seem to be any immediate prospect of its passing out of the hands of its present custodians into those of the Syndicate. In our opinion the loan will never be put upon the European market in the present state of affairs in the Far East, for if it were there is no doubt whatever as to its disastrous collapse.—China Gazette.

THE MINISTERS DEMAND AUDIENCE WITH THE EMPEROR.

We learn that the Foreign Ministers in Peking, more particularly the British, German and Japanese, are pressing the Tsungli Yamen for an audience with the Emperor—if he is alive. But up to the present all their efforts have been ineffectual, every species of evasion and cajolery being interposed by the Manchu element to the Ambassadors' demands.

Many people in Peking now believe that the

Emperor is confined in a small building on an island in the midst of the large deep lake within the Ewo, of Empress's Palace, from which the bridges connecting with the shore have been cut away. But still a great many people in the capital regard his chances of being alive as extremely remote.—*China Gazette*.

THE REBELLIOUS MOVEMENTS IN CHINA.

We take the following notes from the *Shang-hai Mercury*:

THE REBELLION IN SOUTH CHINA.

The extra precautions which officials are enjoined to take with regard to secret societies and the wiping out of their members indicates very clearly that the Empress-Dowager fears that the rebellion of Kwangtung is assuming proportions beyond the present military administration—such as is left of it after the honey-combing of unscrupulous heads of departments. Already the rebels are moving northwards, and Hongkong advices received to-day show that vast quantities of arms have found their way into Canton from Hongkong.

A MAN WHO SHOULD KNOW.

In a recent interview which a representative of this paper had with Capt. Ellis of the notorious steamer *Pasig* (now *Abbey*), that gentleman, who can speak with the voice of authority on the illicit firearms trade, said he knew that the Hongkong police were not quite so smart as they thought they were. He is right. They are vigilant, but they must get up very early to surprise a Chinaman in anything. Firearmshave been pouring into Canton from Hongkong, and all round Swatow there are thousands of men armed with cheap Belgian and German weapons which may not be so well finished as the products of Westley-Richards' or Colt's Armouries, yet are quite good enough for the rebels, and the bullets get there all the same.

WHERE THE STRINGS ARE PULLED.

Macao, as our representative learned during a brief stay in the pleasant little peninsula, is a most important centre of rebel organization. The Portuguese authorities know it well enough but consider it no business of theirs—besides, i. pays; and in Hongkong there is just as much energy displayed, which the British authorities know full well, but only spasmodically, just for the sake of appearances, endeavour to put down. Canton, of course, is the hot-bed of insurrection.

UNREST AT SWATOW.

At Swatow, we are credibly informed, the officials are practically prisoners in their Yamens. It is absurd to expect that such edicts as deal with the crushing of secret societies can be enacted in the Swatow region, at any rate, unless supported by a very powerful force, and where this force is to come from is not quite clear. The soldiers are all discontented and it is feared by their officers that they will fraternise with the rebels; and these apprehensions, are not without reason to support them.

IN HUNAN.

In Hunan there is much uneasiness over the recent executions, and money is rolling in secretly to support a campaign against the present party in power, to march to Peking and to foment a general rising. The Hunanese malcontents have expressed their willingness to aid the Kwangse and Kwangtung rebels by men, arms, and supplies if they march through Hunan Province.

The removal of Chang Chih-tung at this time is a very serious step and it may be followed by a general rising in North Hunan as the Viceroy is one peculiarly able to deal with any internal trouble.

YU MAN-TZU.

In Szechuen, the desperado Yu Man-tzu has raised his standard and is collecting a large force. It is true he is anti-foreign in his views, but it is highly probable that he will throw in his lot if he is able to join forces with the rebels of the two Kwangs. His avowed object is plunder, preferably foreign property, but he has hitherto displayed a refreshing impartiality in his attentions, and has already subdued a very large tract of country.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A FOREIGN MERCHANT FROM KOBE.

Kobe, 5th October.

All sorts of rumours have been going round the town to-day with reference to a firm which has taken a very prominent position for some time past in the export trade of the port. Unfortunately the enquiries we have made show there is some foundation for these rumours. The resident partner of the firm, Mr. James Flood, is believed to have left the country by the O. & O. steamer *Doric* last week. None of his business connections seem to have been advised of his intended departure, and much consternation was evinced at his somewhat sudden disappearance. Late on Monday it became known to a few interested parties that he was not to be found here, and the excitement among those with whom the firm had commercial transactions grew in intensity till to-day when the business premises have been, in a sense, besieged by Japanese creditors. Needless to say we do not deem it fair to give currency to the wild charges some of these creditors are formulating. This much however seems clear. Mr. Flood has gone, and the firm's premises (the godowns at least) are in the possession of their bankers. It is a fact worthy of remark that the ship *Englehorn*, which the firm has had on the berth loading for New York for some weeks past, only left the port to-day.

At the time of writing it is impossible to say what, if any, loss the Japanese merchants who have had dealings with the firm have sustained. As to the liabilities of the firm to the Chartered Bank we understand that the advances are mainly, if not entirely, secured by produce and merchandise stored in the warehouses of which the Bank holds the keys.—*Kobe Herald*.

Kobe, 6th October.

There has been considerable excitement during the last day or two respecting the sudden disappearance of Mr. Flood, resident partner of the firm of Flood & Co., from Kobe—a fact which is evidently distressing to the Japanese creditors of the firm. Mr. Flood left Kobe last week, without previously notifying apparently any of the employés of the firm, which, we may say, has generally been regarded as among the most prosperous in Kobe. On inquiry being made of Mrs. Flood, she stated that her husband had gone to Yokohama. Telegrams of inquiry in regard to important business matters elicited no reply, and it is not known whether they reached Mr. Flood, who was subsequently stated by his wife to have gone to America by the *Doric*. Mr. Flood's name, we may say, does not appear in the steamer's list of passengers from Yokohama. The name of Mrs. James Flood appears in the list of passengers by the *Empress of Japan* (embarking at Yokohama) and we understand that she left Kobe by an early train this morning.

Among the claims against the firm mentioned in the vernacular press is one by Mr. Ikeda, of Kobe for about 10,000 yen for camphor; one by a Matting Company of Okayama for 15,000 yen; another company is stated to have a claim for 12,000 yen for general merchandise and there are stated to be many smaller claims. The vernacular papers give the total amount as being in the neighbourhood of 100,000 yen, but it is obvious that the amount cannot be ascertained until the books are examined.

It is mentioned that the Chartered Bank has advanced money to the firm upon goods stored in the godowns, but it appears that some legal question has arisen as to the Bank's position in this matter inasmuch as the godowns are situated outside the mixed residence area and are in the names of Japanese subjects.—*Hiogo News*.

The *Kobe Chronicle* says:—It is stated that the liabilities of Messrs. Flood & Co. reach some yen 400,000, and that some yen 120,000 is due to the Chartered Bank. We understand that the Chartered Bank is in the main covered by holding a lien on the goods in godown. The Japanese creditors are taking steps to ascertain their legal standing in the matter. It is now rumoured that Mr. James Flood did not leave by the *Doric* as stated, but on the British barque *Englehorn*, which was loaded by the firm, and left for New York direct on the 5th inst.

HUANG CHUN-HSIEN'S RELEASE.

As will be remembered H.E. Huang-Chun-hsien almost immediately after resigning his post of Minister to the Court of Tokyo was arrested on Sunday, the 9th instant, while staying at the Taotai's Bureau of Foreign Affairs, on the Bubbling Well Road, by a secret order of the Empress-Dowager and confined until Tuesday, 11th, in that place, on the alleged charge of having hidden Kang Yu-wei during the latter's escape from the Empress-Dowager's myrmidons. For reasons not yet known this order was rescinded on Tuesday night, and it must have been most amusing to the ex-State prisoner,—barring the serious danger he had just escaped—to find lying on his bedroom table, the next morning, a huge sheet of red paper containing an invitation "respectfully praying for the pleasure and honour of H.E. Huang's company, to a special banquet" in the grand dining-hall of his prison, to be prepared in the evening of that day (Wednesday) by his quondam gaolers, Taotai Tsai and city magistrate Huang I. The reason for this "special banquet" was "the friendly desire to ya-ching," or in plain English to "subdue the fear" that was supposed to fill H.E.'s breast after the exciting danger of the past few days. The ex-Minister, of course, could not with propriety refuse this hospitality of his solicitous hosts.—*N. C. Daily News*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The Magistrate of Sunon district has applied to the Canton Government for soldiers to suppress the bad characters that have gathered together in large numbers to commit robberies, demand money by menaces, and raise a rebellion. The Viceroy, fearing that the case might be getting worse, at once sent five hundred soldiers thither. Admiral Ho Chang-Ching has consulted with the Viceroy as to sending more soldiers under the command of General Liu Yung-fu and Colonel Cheng Yan-tsoi, for he is of opinion that the situation has become alarming.

The uncle and other relatives of Kang Yu-wei who were arrested and imprisoned in Canton have been released, and the ancestral temple of his clan, which was sealed up by order of the Viceroy, has also been allowed to be reopened.

A gang of robbers sent a letter on the 4th inst. to the village of Loongtongiu, Chingun district, demanding two thousand taels under threat that if the demand was not complied with they would burn all the houses in the village. The village, which was well fortified, did not take any notice of it. On the 11th inst. the band of robbers, numbering about one hundred, made an attack on the village. The Lukongs on duty at once gave the alarm and the villagers came out to offer resistance. The robbers, being out-numbered, were compelled to retreat, leaving behind twenty-two of their number fatally shot and one captured alive.

One thousand two hundred and fifty Onyung soldiers have been disbanded in accordance with the Imperial decree. The Kaifong people, knowing that the Onyung soldiers are the only disciplined troops available for the protection of the place, have applied to the Viceroy to be allowed to retain five hundred of them at the expense of the shops. The permission has been granted.

A large number of the remaining Kwangsi rebels are now taking refuge in the fastnesses of the mountain of Ngmashan, where a good many gunsmiths and blacksmiths are engaged in making arms. They intend to raise another rebellion.

It is said that the Viceroy has received instructions from the Peking Government to re-establish the official posts which were previously ordered by an Imperial edict to be abolished.

The Italian cruiser *Marco Polo* has sent a large landing-party up to Peking, and the French cruiser *Descartes* and U.S. cruiser *Boston* will probably both send up guards to their respective Legations. The Legations of the countries which have no naval force in these waters will, no doubt, be looked after by their more powerful neighbours.—*N. C. Daily News*.

HONGKONG.

H.M.S. *Bonaventure* left for Manila on Saturday.

Mr. D. Gillies returned from Manila by the *Esmeralda*.

The storeship *Humber* left on 18th Oct. for Weihsien.

The prospectus of the Shanghai Fire Insurance Co., Limited, is advertised.

The only cases of communicable disease notified as occurring in the colony last week were two of enteric fever.

H.M.S. *Barfleur*, which now carries the flag of Admiral Fitzgerald, went out for steam trials on 16th October and returned on the 19th.

There were 2,416 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 168 were Europeans.

General Jaudenes with his family arrived from Manila by the *Esmeralda* and leaves for Europe by the French mail.

The Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, advertise a dividend of one shilling per share, payable on the 12th December.

For being in unlawful possession of ten bags of flour a Chinaman was on Saturday fined \$10, or three months. P.C. 431 proved the case.

The death rate last month was, for the British and Foreign community, civil population, 23.3, and for the Chinese community 17.8.

A shop coolie was on Saturday fined \$50, or two months, by Commander Hastings for boarding the *Tai Lee* without the permission of the master.

The Imperial Bank of China announces that it has opened a branch in Hongkong, the temporary offices being at No. 4, Queen's Road Central.

For cruelly illtreating poultry by carrying them in a basket in such a manner as to cause needless pain and suffering a Chinese hawker was yesterday fined \$10 at the Magistracy.

At the Magistracy on 19th Oct. Fung Yin, contractor, 43, New East Street, was fined \$75 for neglecting to enclose a building at 284, Queen's Road, while engaged in taking off the roof.

In view of the Imperial decree ordering the suppression of all Chinese newspapers and the arrest and punishment of their editors all the vernacular dailies at Canton are now published nominally by foreigners.

H. M. Sadich, of 27, Gage Street, was fined \$60 for having failed to comply with an order of the Sanitary Board requiring him to complete certain drainage works within a specified period, and Ah Ping, of 37, Gage Street, was fined \$50 for a similar offence.

At the Magistracy on 17th Oct. a Chinaman charged another with having stolen a gold watch belonging to him. He told a long story, but the police had in the meantime made enquiries, as the result of which defendant was discharged and complainant fined \$25 for lying.

At the Magistracy yesterday the master of a junk was fined \$25 for attempting to leave the waters of the colony without a clearance permit, and two boatmen were fined respectively \$15 and \$25 for neglecting to exhibit lights on their boats between sunset and sunrise on the 16th inst.

A seaman named William Gilvie, who said he came from New Zealand, was charged at the Magistracy on 17th October with vagrancy. He was found on the cricket ground on Saturday morning. He had previously been in the house of detention, but had had no chance of getting work. He was declared a vagrant and sent back to the house of detention.

At the Supreme Court on Saturday, before Sir John Carrington (Chief Justice), Mr. Percival Paul Chater Manuk was approved, admitted, and enrolled as a barrister of the court. The Chief Justice wishing him success in the practice of his profession. Mr. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Desnoes and Hastings) made the application. The affidavit of Mr. Manuk was to the effect that he was admitted to the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple on 16th November, 1891, and called to the bar of the same Society on 19th November 1894. For the past four years he had resided in Burmah, and had practised in the High Court of Calcutta and Burmah. An affidavit was also filed by the Hon. C. P. Chater, uncle of Mr. Manuk. The new barrister was educated at Wren's College and at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

A Chinaman named Pang Chee Wan in the employ of Messrs. Watson and Co. was arrested on Thursday on a charge of embezzlement. He was brought before Commander Hastings on Friday morning and remanded, bail to the extent of \$6,000 being accepted. We understand that it is alleged that during 1897 he appropriated goods to the value of \$1,000, falsifying the accounts.

It had been announced that on 14th October Mr. G. P. Lammert would offer for sale by auction at his sale rooms in Duddell Street Kowloon inland lot No. 442. No bidders, however, appeared, so that the property was not put up. The property is held for the residue of a term of 75 years under a Crown lease dated June 24th, 1891. It contains 69,370 square feet and is subject to a Crown rent of \$318 per annum.

A prisoner in Victoria gaol died of plague on 19th Oct. The deceased, Lum Shu by name, went into gaol on the 12th October under sentence of fourteen days' hard labour for larceny. He was admitted to hospital on the 17th and died yesterday morning. At the inquest Dr. Lowson gave evidence as to the cause of death and the jury, composed of Messrs. C. Heermann, F. F. Ribeiro, and B. Vieira, returned a verdict accordingly.

Thursday being the hundredth anniversary of H.M.S. *Immortalité*, that is, the hundredth anniversary of the first entrance of a ship of that name in the Navy, the vessel was decorated with bunches of evergreens on the masts and yardarms and at night was brilliantly illuminated, the figures 1798 forming a prominent feature in the design. The present *Immortalité* is the fifth of the name, the first having been captured from the French on the 20th October, 1798.

The *Sungkia ng* on her arrival at Manila on the 5th October from Hongkong and Amoy was placed under observation for two days at the quarantine station at Mariveles by order of the United States sanitary authorities owing, the *Comercio* says, to the occurrence in this colony of "some cases of dengue or *trancazo*." It is to be hoped the Americans are not going to prove even more benighted than the Spanish in the administration of their quarantine regulations.

Kwang Yu-wei left Hongkong in the *Hohenzollern* for Japan on Wednesday. We hear that after a short stay in Japan he intends to proceed to England. Printed slips have been distributed in Canton stating that Kang Yu-wei and his colleagues have been pardoned by the Empress-Dowager and that Chang Yin-huan has been rescued by the English. It is believed that the intention of these announcements is partly to pacify the Cantonese and partly also to inveigle Kang Yu-wei into returning to Chinese territory, in which case his arrest would be effected.

A largely attended meeting of members took place in the rooms of the Engineers' Institute on Saturday night, when the prizes in the recent billiard handicap were presented by the Chairman, Mr. W. Ramsay, as follows:—First prize, Mr. D. Macdonald; second prize, Mr. R. V. Rutter; third prize, Mr. J. Kew. A financial statement was presented showing a profit of \$340 on the past nine months' working of the Institute. A smoker followed, in which some capital songs were rendered by Messrs. Van Neiro, Murdoch, and C. T. Robinson. Mr. A. J. M. Farr accompanied.

On 14th October Messrs. Hughes and Hough offered for sale by auction the iron screw steamer *Memnon*, the property of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire. The starting bid was \$5,000. \$20,000 was soon reached. Then the price rose by bids of \$500 to \$27,000, subsequently reaching \$27,500, when the boat was knocked down to Messrs. Noel, Murray and Co., of Shanghai. The *Memnon* was built at Greenock in 1861 by Messrs. Scott and Co. Her speed in fair weather is given as 10½ knots per hour. Other particulars given with regard to her are tonnage, gross, 1,290; net, 1,825; capacity cargo dead weight (inclusive of bunkers), tons 1,300; measurement, cubic feet 63,000; length between perpendiculars, feet 254; breadth, feet 33; depth of hold, feet 23. Passenger accommodation—first class, ten; third class, twelve. Rooms on deck 14.

For neglecting to enclose with a scaffolding a building at the junction of Ice-house Road and Zetland Street, while engaged in removing the roof, Tsan Sin, contractor, Wellington Street, was on Saturday fined \$50.

An amah employed at 35, Lower Lascar Row, appeared before Commander Hastings on Saturday to answer a charge of stealing a box containing some jewellery and \$70, the property of her mistress. The theft took place on the 15th September. The woman was arrested on board the Canton boat on Friday night with the box containing the jewellery and about \$30 in her possession. She was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

For stealing a travelling trunk containing \$50, a Chinaman was on Saturday sentenced to six months' imprisonment. The theft took place on board the *Telemachus*, on which both prosecutor and the accused were passengers. On Friday prisoner was observed by the cook going forward with the box, and on its being discovered that the box had been stolen the man was put in irons and on arrival at Hongkong handed over to the police.

On 18th October a plot of Crown land situate at Taipingshan was offered for sale by auction for a term of 75 years and was purchased by the proprietors of the Tung Hing Theatre for \$7,900—\$25 above the upset price. The plot contains 3,150 square feet and the annual rent is \$52. On Monday afternoon a plot of land in Morrison Hill Road measuring 9,313 square feet was sold to a Chinaman for \$3,285—\$25 above the upset price. The term is 75 years and the annual rent \$116.

The Volunteer route march fixed for Saturday last did not take place. There was a fair—perhaps not a full—muster on the parade ground when the "fall in" was sounded shortly after 3 p.m., including the fife and drum band; the detachments were told off and formed into the order of march, but immediately afterwards the Commandant, Major Sir John Carrington, gave the order, "Detachments front; right turn; dismiss." No reason was given for the abandonment of the march and some murmurings of disappointment were heard among the men.

Another case of carrying arms without a license came before Commander Hastings on 17th Oct., the offender being a Chinaman and the arms sword bayonets. Inspector Cuthbert boarded a junk in the harbour that morning and found there 50 cases. On opening one of them he found it contained sword bayonets. He arrested defendant, who told him he was acting for Messrs. Carlowitz & Co. and produced a paper to show this. Mr. Bischoff, of Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., said the arms, which were to be sent to Antwerp, were in course of transhipment, and the firm was not aware that a permit was required for that purpose. A fine of \$1 was imposed.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 30th September, as certified by the managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average Amount.	Specie in Reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.....	\$2,873,076	\$2,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	6,180,333	3,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited	445,879	150,000
Total	\$9,499,288	5,650,000

The occupier of a draper's shop at 35, Jervois Street, was on 19th Oct. fined \$75, or three months, for obstructing Inspector Duncan, of the weights and measures department, while in the execution of his duty. The Inspector said he went to defendant's shop on Monday afternoon and asked him for his measures. Defendant, who spoke good English, said he dealt wholesale and had no measure. He persisted in saying he had not got a measure in his shop, but on searching the Inspector found one on a wall behind some clothing. It was correct as regarded the length, but there was no tip on it. Defendant said he had forgotten he had the measure. The occupier of 51, Jervois Street was fined \$25 for being in possession of an unjust measure.

Two launches took place at Hunghom Docks on Saturday afternoon, one of the vessels being the new double-ender for the Kowloon Ferry service, and the other a Customs cruiser. The christening ceremony was performed in the first case by Miss Murray Bain and in the second by Miss Hillier.

Mulla Singh, a watchman at the Rope Factory at Kennedytown, informed Commander Hastings at the Magistracy on Saturday that at about half-past 11 on Friday night two Chinamen who were employed at the same place came and spoke to him because he, in accordance with his instructions, would not allow a friend of one of them to enter the works. One of them hit him on the head with a wooden rod and the other struck him on the shoulder with a piece of bamboo. Fines of \$10, or a month, were imposed, \$5 being also ordered to be paid as compensation.

The *Nippon Maru*, belonging to the Tokyo Kisen Kaisha (Oriental Steamship Co. of Tokyo), arrived on Saturday morning and fully answered the expectations that had been formed concerning her. She is commanded by Captain Fred. R. Evans, who is well known on the China coast, having had several years' experience in this trade, and who is equally well known on the Atlantic. One of his principal feats was while waiting for the completion of his steamer to successfully accomplish what was probably the largest and longest tow ever achieved, namely, the large pontoon or floating dry dock constructed in England for the harbour of Havana. He has had several experiences in life saving from wrecked vessels while in command on the Atlantic and is considered one of the most careful and capable commanders sailing from English ports and will undoubtedly with his genial manners and careful seamanship become a favourite with trans-Pacific travellers. The chief officer is Mr. A. F. Kelly, the chief engineer Mr. Herbert L. Whitburn, the purser Mr. Wm. H. Magee, and the surgeon Eustac McDonogh. The *Nippon Maru* has been built to Lloyd's highest class and has all the latest improvements for passenger accommodation, which is 120 first class, 44 second class, and 1,300 emigrants. She will remain here some three days and then proceed to Yokohama, where she will pass her surveys to obtain a mail subsidy from the Japanese Government. Her agents at this port are Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Foochow Echo* of the 8th October says:—At an early hour yesterday morning a fire broke out in the business street of Nantai and lasted nearly three hours. Upwards of 100 native houses and shops were destroyed. Originating in an eating house half a dozen doors eastward of Hing Chong's store, it crossed the street and burning all the houses up to the boundary of Tuck Hing appeared for a time to threaten that residence, but the intervening space in the compound proved to be sufficient to prevent worse happening. Nearer the river it is said that Messrs. Fraser, Ramsay & Co.'s Tea Hong might have been lost but for precautions taken by the agents of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company.

A sensational shooting case occurred at Haiphong on the 12th October. It appears that M. Jules Bedier, a transport contractor, had for a long time past been forcing his unwelcome attentions upon Madame Hermann, the wife of a lawyer's clerk. On the afternoon of the day named he again went to the lady's house, and she, in a moment of excitement fired two shots at him with a revolver. The wounded man had strength enough left to try to escape by climbing over a bamboo fence which separated the yard from that of the next house, but his foot got caught between the spikes, and Madame Hermann, who was in pursuit, fired at him a third time, striking him full in the heart. The post mortem examination showed that any one of the three wounds would have proved fatal. There were two in the lower part of the abdomen, one of which had perforated the bowel, while the other had traversed the pelvis and would have brought on peritonitis. The third bullet passed through the heart and lodged in the region of the liver.

When we referred the other day to the issue of some very pretty Bank notes by the Imperial Bank of China, we only mentioned the engravers and printers, Messrs. Barclay and Frys, London. Due credit ought, however, to be given to the designer. These notes in all their details, both English and Chinese, were designed by Mr. R. A. de Villard, who also made drawings of the watermark and network, and supplied the printers with hand-water colour paintings, to give them the exact colour wanted. The small Chinese characters on the notes were written by H. E. Sheng's own hand, and the engravers and printers had therefore only to copy what was completely put before them, which they did correctly and well. The dollar notes issued in Shanghai are of a pink colour on lemon coloured paper, and are of five denominations—each of different size: \$1, 5, 10, 50, 100; while the Tael notes issued here are of the same values and sizes, but of reddish violet colour; and the \$ notes to be issued in Canton are of silk green colour. It may also not be known that the present pretty issue of the Imperial Chinese postage stamps, engraved by Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, are as to colour and design exact copies of Mr. de Villard's designs, as were also the lithographed stamps of the Customs Post issued on the day of the Empress-Dowager's birthday.—*Mercury.*

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	9,277,051	10,503,236
Foochow.....	10,682,577	10,865,150
Amoy.....	390,250	518,058
Canton.....	3,191,005	3,855,438
	23,530,883	25,742,182

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai.....	7,486,001	10,548,100
Amoy.....	5,410,936	9,354,477
Foochow.....	5,566,126	6,631,034
	18,463,066	26,534,181

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99	1897-98
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	22,676,902	19,375,665

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama.....	18,929,288	21,266,562
Kobe.....	11,235,261	13,506,618
	30,164,549	34,773,180

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 15th October.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—The London market is firmer at last quotation. Gold Kilings in Lyons have advanced to Fcs. 7.75. Raw Silk.—A good steady business has been done all week, and prices have hardened and show a further advance of Tls. 5/4 since our last circular was written. In Yellow Silks about 250 bales have changed hands, prices are weak. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, October 8th to 14th are: 994 bales White, 317 bales Yellow, and 203 bales Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filatures.—There has been a good demand for Hand Filatures for Lyons, and settlements are fully 600 bales. Steam Filatures continue neglected, both for the American and Continental markets. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 1,185 bales to the Continent, 748 bales to America, and 56 bales to England. Wild Silks.—Very little doing. Waste Silks.—There has been more this week and the following particulars of transactions have transpired:

	at Tls.
50 White Coarse Gum 70 p. c. No. I, 30 p. c. No. II	634
125 Curlicles No. I.....	54
100 " 60 p. c. No. I, 30 p. c. No. II, 10 p. c. No. III	42
100 Woorie White pd. Cocoon 68/70 per cent.....	621
100 Honan No. 2.....	231
150 Tuanai Waste 60 p. c. No. I, 40 p. c. No. II.....	231

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2/84; Freight Tls. 7.80 per bale.

	Tls.	Stls.
Taateen.—Black Lion 81	525	12/4
" Mountain 1.....	5161	12/0
" 5.....	4774	11/1
" Bird Channing.....	510	11/10
" Gold Elephant.....	500	11/7
" Gold Lion.....	480	11/3
" Gold Killing.....	485	10/0
" Silver Double Elephant.....	4674	10/11
" Hemtah Stork Chayling.....	445	10/5
Taysam.—Green Kating M.....	455	10/7
" MM.....	435	10/2
" Y. V. C. Chayling.....	4524	10/6
" Tongpan.....	4224	10/4
Hangchow Teatrees.—Pagoda Ting Tingfang.....	425	9/11
Tinghow.....	4274	10/0
Steam Filature + Market Chop.....	715 a 735	16/5 a 16/1
Hand Filature.—		
Hongkong Hung Haining 1 & 2, 590 a 580	8/8 a	13/5
Pegasus Haining 1, 2, & 3.....	ave.	5774
Denbie Mountain Haining 1, 2, & 3.....	ave.	495
Gold Gu 3 & 4.....	5524 a 5424	12/9 a 2/7
Gold Goat 3 & 4.....	556 a 545	12/10 a 12/8
Mars Chop 1.....	5424	12/7
Yellow Silk.—Stung Skeins Gold Elephant.....	880	8/11
" Tangloh.....	835	7/11
" Mienchew.....	835 a 350	7/11 a 8/3
" Meeyang.....	835	7/11
" Wongchow.....	275	6/7

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
bales.	bales.	bales.
Shanghai.....	27,493	27,526
Canton.....	13,558	11,652
Yokohama.....	6,118	6,194
	47,109	45,872

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
bales.	bales.	bales.
Shantai.....	2,478	4,479
Canton.....	5,351	5,828
Yokohama.....	5,449	8,349
	13,278	18,656

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 21st October.—The recent improvement has not been maintained. Quotations for Formosa are \$45.50 to \$46.00. Sales, 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 21st October.—The market is less active and prices weaker. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$7.65 to 7.70 per pel. do. " White... 7.45 to 7.50 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 5.10 to 5.14 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.95 to 5.00 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.50 to 7.55 " do. " 1, White... 7.36 to 7.40 " Swatow, No. 1, Brown... \$1.85 to 4.90 per pel. do. " 2, Brown... 4.80 to 4.85 " Foochow Sugar Candy.... 11.55 to 11.60 " Shekloong " 10.85 to 10.90 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per German steamer *Darmstadt*, sailed on the 12th October. For Singapore:—57 rolls matting. For Colombo:—2 cases joss sticks. For Aden:—1 case Chinaware. For Suez:—80 crates cannedfruits. For Beyrouth:—20 cases cassia. For Genoa:—53 bales raw silk, 249 bales waste silk, 152 bales pierced cocoons, 10 cases essential oil, and 1 case blackwoodware. For Antwerp:—79 rolls matting, 50 cases gall-nuts, 31 cases Chinaware, 26 bales rattancore, 10 cases ethnographical articles, 9 bales rattancore, 3 cases cigars, and 1 case bambooware. For Antwerp and/or Brémen and/or Hamburg and/or London:—250 bales broken cassia. For Amsterdam—689 boxes and 200 casks ginger, and 42 cases Chinaware. For Rotterdam:—13 cases cigars. For Bremen:—429 rolls matting, 3 cases fruits, 2 cases tea, 2 cases ironware, 2 cases Chinaware, 2 canes blackwoodware, 6 cases camphorwood boxes, and 1 case curios. For Hamburg:—252 bales feathers, 4 cases tea, and 1 case curios. For Hamburg and/or London:—750 boxes cassia. For London:—100 bales waste silk.

Per steamer *Macduff*, sailed on the 15th October. For New York:—1,000 bales cassia, 100 boxes Saigon cassia, 582 slabs tin, 424 packages tea, 68 cases Chinaware, 51 rolls matting, 9 cases bristles, 5 casks ginger, and 2,340 packages merchandise.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on the 15th October. For Manchester:—3 cases floss silk. For London:—141 bales raw silk.

5 cases silk piece goods, and 1 case feathers. For France:—842 bales raw silk, and 12 cases silk piece goods. For Milan:—15 bales raw silk.

Per German steamer *Wittenberg*, sailed on the 15th October. For Havre:—2 cases gongs, 2 cases sundries, 4 cases blackwoodware, 4 bales goatskin, 10 cases bristles, 20 boxes essential oil, 22 bales canes, 24 cases human hair, 77 bales hemp, 269 bales bamboo, and 271 chests tea. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—10 cases human hair, 17 cases albumin, 20 cases Chinaware, 70 casks egg yolk, 95 bales canes, and 2,572 rolls matting. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—5 cases gelatine, 8 casks egg yolk, 10 boxes essential oil, 40 boxes bristles, 59 bales feathers, and 599 cases camphor. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or Marseilles:—27 cases albumin and 40 casks egg yolk. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or Antwerp and/or London:—7 cases human hair. For Hamburg:—1 case ilang ilang, 3 cases China ink, 3 cases curios, 7 cases cigars, 8 cases blackwoodware, 12 cases feathers, 15 cases bristles, 20 bales galangal, 26 cases sundries, 37 bales cotton, 40 cases essential oil, 60 cases preserves, 100 cases firecrackers, 135 bales rattanware, 159 bales canes, 500 bales broken cassia, and 1,313 boxes tea. For Hamburg and/or London:—10 boxes essential oil. For Amsterdam:—200 casks preserves. For Rotterdam:—450 cases preserves.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 21st October.—Bengal.—The market has ruled firm and prices have advanced, current quotations being \$770 for New Patna and \$757 for New Benares.

Malwa.—Now descriptions have improved in value, whilst old has kept steady. Latest figures are as under:—New (this yr's) \$750 with allowance to 1 catties Old (2/3 yrs.) \$780 " " to 3 " " (4/6 ") \$830 " " to 3 " " (7/8 ") \$870 " " to 24 " " (9/10 ") \$900 " " to 1 " " Persian—the market has continued quiet, and some decline has taken place in the rates for Paper-wrapped drug. Prices close at \$550 to \$630 for Oily and at \$650 to \$710 for Paper-wrapped opium according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

	New Patna.....	1,730 chests
Old Patna.....		47
New Benares.....		258</td

Sheetings—1,500 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.20, 160 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6. 500 pieces No. 300 at \$3.55, 500 pieces Flower Chop at \$4.85, 500 pieces Blue Dragon at \$4.85, 240 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.85, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6. 300 pieces E. K. at \$5.85, 800 pieces E. K. at \$4.85, 500 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.20, 1,000 pieces No. 300 at \$3.55, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$1.27, 500 pieces S. Q. at \$4.85, 400 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.85, 800 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6. 500 pieces No. 3 at \$3.52, 500 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.20, **White Linen**.—250 pieces No. 2 Gold Horse at \$4.50. **T. Cloths**.—1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.81, 800 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. X. M. at \$2.36, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Blue Dragon at \$2.80, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.72, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Red Stag at \$2.80, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. V. V. at \$2.92, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. X. X. at \$2.97, 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Shoe Maker at \$2.07, 800 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. X. M. at \$2.35, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Gold Dragon at \$2.80, 2,250 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Blue Dragon at \$2.80, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.81, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.72. **Linen**.—375 pieces 8 lbs. Red Stag Chop at \$6.80. **Drills**.—300 pieces 14 lbs. No. 250 at \$3.50. **METALS**.—Quicksilver 200 flasks at \$135.50, 100 flasks at \$136.50, 100 flasks at \$134.50 to arrive.

COTTON YARN.—per bale

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s. 62.00 to 88.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24. 104.00 to 110.00
" 22 to 24. 105.00 to 111.00
" 28 to 32. 118.00 to 123.00
" 38 to 42. 127.00 to 132.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.—per piece

Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.72 to 1.82

7lbs. 1.97 to 2.05

8.4 lbs. 2.40 to 3.15

9 to 10 lbs. 3.30 to 4.10

White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50

58 to 60 .. 2.70 to 3.85

64 to 66 .. 3.45 to 4.30

Fine 4.30 to 7.00

Book-folds. 3.70 to 5.60

Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.64 to 1.80

T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.); Ord'y. 1.52 to 1.72

7lbs. (32 ..) 1.85 to 2.10

6lbs. (32 ..), Mexs. 1.62 to 1.82

7lbs. (32 ..) 2.05 to 2.75

8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.) 2.35 to 3.20

Drills, English—40 yds. 13 to 14lbs. 3.65 to 5.05

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1 to 8lbs. 1.50 to 4.85

Brocades—Dyed 3.00 to 5.00

per yard

Damasks 0.12 to 0.16

Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to 0.14

Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.20 to 0.45

Velveteens—18 in. 0.17 to 0.18

per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.90

WOOLLENS.—per yard

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chocks. 0.60 to 1.40

German 1.15 to 1.50

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.25 to 5.25

per piece

Löng Ells—Scarlet 6.50 to 8.50

Assorted 6.60 to 8.60

Camlets—Assorted 12.50 to 32.50

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted 11.00 to 20.00

Orleans—Plain 7.00 to 8.50

per pair

Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 3.50 to 14.00

METALS.—per picul

Iron—Nail Rod 3.60 to —

Square, Flat Round Bar ... 3.60 to —

Swedish Bar 0.25 to —

Small Round Rod 4.15 to —

Hoop & to 11/2 in. 5.00 to —

Wire 15/25 8.25 to —

Old Wire Rope 1.50 to 2.50

Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ... 8.30 to —

Australias 8.20 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz. 38.00 to —

Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 31.50 to —

Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 31.50 to —

Composition Nails 46.00 to —

SHANGHAI, 15th October.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report.)—The week under review has been a very quiet one and scarcely any business has taken place in English makes. A small demand from New-chwang for American goods was readily met, holders, seemingly, being quite willing to concede anything in the way of prices so long as they can sell for prompt cash. These together with one or two unimportant lines of American Sheetings "to arrive," constitute all the business that has been

been done privately this week. Clearances of English goods are very bad, but fair quantities of American have been settled for during the interval; it does not follow, however, that they are going into consumption immediately, it being more the consequence of the Exchange contracts against the goods that had to be met. With regard to English makes the Auctions for once seem to hold the best position, as any money there is floating about they get. The advance in prices at the public sales this week does not appear to have arisen from an improvement in the demand from any of the consuming districts, but is rather a reaction on the low prices that were paid last week. However, buyers for both Ningpo and Chinkiang were rather more in evidence. There has been a little more doing in Local Yarns, buyers being tempted by the low prices ruling. Cotton for immediate delivery is slightly firmer, T13.00 being the quotation now for best machine ginned, but better terms could be arranged for a quantity and for a little later delivery. Seed Cotton is now quoted \$6.80 per picul.

METALS, 17th October.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report.)—There has been a continuation of the dull period during the past week, orders being if anything fewer than ever. All hopes for favourable reports from the North and River ports have been disappointed, and there seems as small a chance as ever for these seasonable needs being manifested. To add to the general dullness the native banks are becoming more stringent than ever in their requirements, which only tends to still further make the tightness manifest. In Metals there has been little doing, as quoted below. A new feature was the sale of a lot of 200 tons of American Pig Lead at Tls. 6.30 per picul, and we here that in addition to the 80 cases of Galvanised Sheet Iron, 18 gauge, at £11.12.6, which is all that is definitely reported, 200 to 300 tons of Cart Tyres and Cobbles have been done at private terms.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 21st October.—Business during the week has been fairly brisk, but stocks of nearly every description have been difficult to obtain and rates have risen in consequence.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghais.—A small unsatisfied demand at 215 in the early part of the week suddenly sent the market up to 220 per cent. prem., with small sales at that but not at any intermediate rates; on time a few transactions were put through at 222 and 224 per cent. for December in the early part of the week and at equivalent rates for January; market closes with sellers at 220 to 219 but with probable buyers at equivalent rates forward. Nationals continue to change hands in small lots and to be enquired for at quotation.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The small demand for China Traders at \$58 still exists, but holders refuse to part. Unions have changed hands to a limited extent at \$225 cum and \$210 ex dividend paid yesterday. Cantons are still enquired for at \$132 cum dividend without finding sellers. Straits, Yangtszes, and North Chinas are on the market at quotations without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Some Hongkong Fires have changed hands at \$320 and are still in demand at that rate. China Fires continue weak with sellers and without business at quotation (\$90).

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos remain neglected with only very small cash sales at \$271. Indo-Chinas have been in good demand and sales have resulted at \$58, \$59, \$59, \$60, and \$61, market closing steady at \$61 to \$61.4. Douglasses have ruled in fair demand and have found buyers at \$50 and \$51. China Manilas and China Mutuals without business and unchanged.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars with a demand from the North have improved their position to \$166 and \$167, with sales at that, but none at intermediate rates. Luzons have been enquired for at \$45, but no business has been reported.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled rather weaker with small sales at \$5.75, \$5.60, and later at \$5.50, market closing quiet at \$5.50. Raubs have been enquired for at \$361 to \$361, but only a few small transactions have resulted. Oliver's, Balmorals, and Jelebus have changed hands in unimportant lots at quotations.

Docks, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been per-

sistently enquired for at rising rates without leading to business and at time of closing buyers offer 258 per cent. prem. without bringing out sellers. The demand may be attributed to the great amount of work at the Docks and the conclusion of a contract to raise three of the late Spanish warships in Manila Bay. Kowloon Wharves are still enquired for and the rate has advanced to \$69 without inducing holders to part. Wanchai has been negotiated at \$41.

LAWNS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have further improved their position to \$73 with only small sales at \$70, \$71, and \$72; shares continue scarce and firmly held. Hotels have found buyers at \$55 and close in a small demand at that rate. Humphreys Estates and West Points remain unchanged with a small business in the former, and close firmat quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watsons have found buyers at \$12, Star Ferries at \$9.25, Fenwicks at \$29, and Ropes at \$162, whilst buyers of Ices, Tramways and Campbell and Moores still remain unsatisfied.

Closing quotations are as follow:

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	220 % prem.
China & Japan, prf...	£5	nomin
Do. ordinary...	£4	£1, buyers
Do. deferred...	£1	£5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$17
Founders Shares...	£8	\$17, sales & buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10	\$9.25, sal. & buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$167, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo....	Tls. 100	Tls. 70, buyers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 78
Laou Kung Now	Tls. 100	Tls. 78
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 450
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 50
Hongkong	\$70	\$50
Dairy Farm Co.	\$6	\$5.5s.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$29, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$27, sellers
Do. New Issue	\$5	\$16, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$10	\$125, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$8.5s. buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$100	\$14, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$50	\$55, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$25	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$50	\$89, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$164, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$164, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	258 p. ct. prem.—
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$124, ex div. buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sales & sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$5s. buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$320, sal. & buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 180
Straits	\$20	\$74, sellers
Union	\$50	\$210, ex div. sales
Yangtsze	\$60	\$129
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$73, buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$8.50, sal. & buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17.5s.
West Point Building	\$40	\$19, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fce. 500	\$10, sellers
Great E. & C'orian...	£5	\$6.75, sellers
Jelebu	£5	\$140, sal. & buyers
New Balmoral	£1	25 cts.
Do. Preference ...	£1	45 cts., sales
Oliver's Mines, A.	£5	\$1, sellers
Do. B.	£2	\$3.50, sellers
Punjom	£5	\$54, sales
Do. Preference...	£1	\$1.50, buyers
Raubs	14s	

SHANGHAI, 17th October.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.—Business has been rather dull this week, with but little change in rates. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. There is no local business to report. A few cash shares are offering at 215 per cent. premium. Bank of China and Japan.—Ordinary shares are wanted at £11.0. National Bank of China.—Ordinary shares have buyers at \$17. Marine Insurance.—Union Insurance shares have improved to \$225. China Traders' are offering at \$60. Shipping.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares were placed to Hongkong at \$27.75, and exchange \$72.25. Ind-China S. N. shares are wanted at Tls. 42. Douglas Steamship shares have declined to \$50. China Mutual S. N. Ordinary shares were sold at Tls. 23. Sugar Companies.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares have been placed at Tls. 41 to Tls. 41.50 cash and Tls. 43 to Tls. 48.50 for 31st December. China Sugar Refining shares changed hands locally at \$162 cash and \$170 for the 31st December. Luzon Sugar Refining shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$45. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shanghai Engineering and Dock shares are wanted at Tls. 78. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 116, and are in demand. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares have improved to 249 per cent. premium. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares are wanted at \$65 and held for \$66. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares are wanted at Tls. 83. Hongkong Land Investment shares are wanted at \$69. Industrial.—Major Bros. shares were placed at Tls. 31. Cotton Mills:—Two shares were sold at Tls. 70 and are wanted, Internationals at Tls. 81 to Tls. 79 cash and Tls. 85 for March, Laou Kung Mows at Tls. 78 for October and Tls. 85 for March, and Yah Loongs at Tls. 50. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 67/68 cash, Tls. 68 for December, Tls. 70/71 for February and Tls. 78 for March. Shanghai-Liangkat Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 150/180 cash, Tls. 140 for October, and Tls. 190 for March. Cash shares are offering at Tls. 135. The third call of Tls. 50 on the new shares is due on the 15th November. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares were sold at Tls. 60. Loans.—Debentures were placed:—Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. at Tls. 101, Shanghai Waterworks 6 per cent. at Tls. 101, and Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. at Tls. 100.50, plus the accrued interest in all cases.

Quotations are:—

BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$393.75.
Bank of China and Japan, defd.—\$25.50
Do. ordinary.—Nominal.

National Bank of China, Ld.—\$17.00.

COTTON MILLS.

Two Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.—Tls. 70.00.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—50.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.—Tls. 79.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ld.—Tls. 78.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ld.—Tls. 450.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, &c.

Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 183.00.

Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$65.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—\$436.25.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 159.00.

Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 78.00.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 116.00.

INSURANCES.

Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—\$130.00.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$90.00.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—\$61.00.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$820.00.

North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 180.00.

Straits Insurance Co., Ld.—\$8.00.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.—\$225.

Yangtze Insurance Assoc., Ld.—\$130.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—\$69.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ld.—\$84.

Shanghai Land Invest. Co. (fully pd.)—Tls. 69.00.

Mining.

Punjom Mining Co., Ld.—\$5.25.

Punjom Mining Co., Ld., pref. shares.—\$1.50.

Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ld.—\$354.

Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 2.25.

Shipping.

China Mutual preference.—Tls. 70.00.

Do. ordinary, 2.5 per cent.—Tls. 23.00.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 145.00.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—\$50.00.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$27.50.

Tude China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 42.00.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 165.00.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 195.00.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.—T. Tls. 75.00.

SUGAR.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$160.50.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$45.00.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 40.50.

MISCELLANEOUS.

American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 65.00.

Central Stores, Ld.—\$10.25.

China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 51.00.

Hall & Holtz, Ld.—\$38.00.

Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$60.00.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 31.00.

Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 400.00.

Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 210.00.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 60.0.

Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage, & Refrigeration Co., Ld., Tls. 25.00.

Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 90.00.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 180.00.

Do. New Issue.—Nominal.

Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 25.00.

Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 68.00.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 294.00.

Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$12.25.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 21st October.

ON LONDON.

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 1/

ON PARIS.

Bank Bills, on demand	2.44
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.48

ON GERMANY.

On demand	1.96 1/
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ON NEW YORK.

Bank Bills, on demand	46 1/
Credits, 60 days' sight	47 1/

ON BOMBAY.

Telegraphic Transfer	144
Bank, on demand	144 1/

ON CALCUTTA.

Telegraphic Transfer	144
Bank, on demand	144 1/

ON SHANGHAI.

Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/

ON YOKOHAMA.

On demand	54 1/ % pm.
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ON MANILA.

On demand	2 1/ % pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.

On demand	1 1/ % pm.
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SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Buying Rate ... 10.24

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 53.75

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 17th October (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—Another fortnight has passed since writing on the 3rd instant, and still no improvement to record in homeward freights. Steamers for New York via Canal may be said to be few and far between, but this is only in keeping with the lifeless state of export business generally. The berth for London has been well supplied with tonnage, but the amount of support forthcoming has been most limited. Natives are gradually coming down in their ideas of tea prices, and sellers and buyers must shortly unite to a greater extent than has been the experience of recent weeks. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Konigsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 55s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 52s. 6d.; waste silk 55s.; tea 57s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 52s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 42s. 6d.; tea 45s. Above rates are subject to a deferred rebate, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo 36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 36s. net, general cargo

36s. net, waste silk 38s. 6d. net, tea 40s. 6d. net, 38s. per ton of 20 cwt. net for above three ports. New York, by sail, 19s. nominal. New York via Pacific, 14 gold cents per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbraid. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 27s. 6d. for tea. Boston, 45s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea. Philadelphia, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea. Coast rates—Moji to Shanghai \$1.50 per ton coal, nominal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.50 per ton coal, nominal; Newchwang to Kobe little doing; Newchwang to Swatow little doing; Newchwang to Canton 28 cents; Wuhu to Canton closed.

VESSELS ON THE BEETH.

For LONDON.—Canton (str.), Parramatta (str.), Andalusa (str.), Sado Maru (str.), Formosa (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.).

For BREMEN.—Sachsen (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—Natal (str.), Kanagawa Maru (str.), Sado Maru (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Coptic (str.). City of Peking (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).

For VICTORIA, B. C.—Olympia (str.).

For TACOMA.—Olympia (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Ghasee (str.), John Sanderson (str.), Adolph Orbis, Paul Revere, Mary B. Cushing.

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Stolberg (str.) Nurnberg (str.), Babelsberg (str.), Savoia (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Changhsia (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

October—ARRIVALS.

14. Progress, German str., from Newchwang.
15. Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
15. Telemachus, British str., from Penang.
15. Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
15. Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
15. Canton, British str., from Canton.
15. Australian, British str., from Sydney.
15. Prosper, Norw. str., from Port Wallut.
15. Victor, Norw. bark, from Yokohama.
16. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
16. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
16. Nanyang, German str., from Moji.
16. Quarta, German str., from Samarang.
16. Triumph, German str., from Pakhot.
16. Hsi Ping, Chinese str., from Canton.
16. Germania, German str., from Java.
17. Peiyang, German str., from Wuhu.
18. Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
18. Chiynen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
18. Hyson, British str., from Liverpool.
18. Stolberg, German str., from Hamburg.
18. Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
18. Sachsen, German str., from Bremerhaven.
18. Hong Leong, British str., from Singapore.
18. Benvorlich, British str., from London.
19. Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
19. Glenartney, British str., from Singapore.
19. Moravia, German str., from Singapore.
19. Peshawur, British str., from Bombay.
19. Pyrrhus, British str., from Glasgow.
19. Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
19. Wingsang, British str., from Shanghai.
19. Progress, German str., from Canton.
19. Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
20. Haiphong, French str., from Haiphong.
20. Nurnberg, German str., from Moji.<

15. Shansi, British str., for Port Arthur.
 15. Bygdo, Norw. str., for Newchwang.
 15. Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 15. Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
 15. Toyo Maru, Japanese str., for Sorsogon.
 15. Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 15. Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.
 15. Prosper, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 15. Java, British str., for Shanghai.
 16. Decima, German str., for Saigon.
 16. Knivsberg, German str., for Manila.
 16. Taiwan, British str., for Amoy.
 16. Telemachus, British str., for Amoy.
 16. Hermes, Norw. str., for Hongay.
 16. Benseler, British str., for Kobe.
 16. Bonaventure, British cruiser, for Manila.
 16. Amara, British str., for Saigon.
 17. Barfleur, British cruiser, for a cruise.
 17. Hermes, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 17. Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 17. Michael Jebsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 17. Canton, British str., for Swatow.
 17. Rosetta, British str., for Yokohama.
 18. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 18. Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
 18. Hailoong, British str., for Amoy.
 18. Nippon Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 18. Charleston, Amr. cruiser, for Manila.
 18. Memnon, British str., for Kudat.
 18. Taichow, British str., for Swatow.
 18. Hsi-Ping, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
 18. Ariel, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 18. Alesia, German str., for Hamburg.
 19. Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
 19. Hohenzollern, German str., for Japan.
 19. Humber, British storeship, for Weihiwei.
 19. Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 19. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 19. Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
 19. Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Canton.
 19. Hyson, British str., for Shanghai.
 19. Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 19. Tailee, German str., for Amoy.
 19. Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
 19. Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 20. Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
 20. Picciola, German str., for Newchwang.
 20. Progress, German str., for Chefoo.
 20. Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
 20. Stolberg, German str., for Yokohama.
 20. Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
 21. Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Foochow.
 21. Benvorlich, British str., for Taku.
 21. Glenartney, British str., for Shanghai.
 21. Ashton, British str., for Sourabaya.
 21. Menelaus, British str., for London.
 21. Moravia, Austrian str., for Japan.
 21. Iranian, British ship, for Royal Roads.
 21. Stolberg, German str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Taisang*, from Cebu, Fr. Meriano Hernjon.

Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, &c., Mr. Percy C. Denroche, Mr. Ing Ging, Mr. S. M. Ingalsby, Lieut. Gilbreth, Dr. Louis W. Atlee, Mr. W. O. Rowe, Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Swart, Rev. and Mrs. W. M. Campbell, Dr. Jerome S. Chaffee, Mr. J. Auchterlonie, Mr. Arthur Hyde Lay, Capt. Saumarez, Mrs. E. L. Beach, Mrs. G. C. Cox, Miss Green, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mrs. Koiod, Capt. A. L. Duncan, Mr. H. R. Raspe, Mrs. Sanger and 321 Chinese.

Per *Java*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Shaw, Misses Shaw (2), Master Shaw, Messrs. Andrew Forbes and W. S. Fyfe; from Singapore, Mr. C. E. J. Hammond. For Shanghai, from London, Messrs. R. A. Couzens and T. Culham; for Yokohama, Mrs. G. R. Bishop, and Miss Bishop and 347 Chinese.

Per *Kong Beng*, from Taiwanfoo, &c., Miss Robbins.

Per *Hailoong*, from Coast Ports, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Lay, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Monro.

Per *Telemachus*, from Penang, &c., Mr. McGuire, and 234 Chinese.

Per *Australian*, for Hongkong, from Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Kingsford, Mr. and Mrs. Shortridge, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Yuill, Misses Sears, and Coleson, Messrs. J. H. Boatkes, H. Lyons, T. Herbert, G. Williams, T. O. Radford, J. H. Edgar, C. F. Lack, R. A. McCulloch and W. Cheang; from Brisbane, Mrs. Lee, Barroso Pereira, Lt.-Adjutant St. Clair, Mrs. Claudia Gomes da Silva, Messrs. J. H. da

Silva Costa, José d'Assumpção Malho and D. J. de Barros Maher.

Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. Leon Vincart, Ong Swee Quan, Sit Hong Ging, and Wong Choi Man.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from Singapore, Messrs. McCann, Davis, and Luina.

Per *Chiyuen*, from Shanghai, Miss T. Leslie, Mrs. F. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. D'Azevedo, and Mr. D'Azevedo, Jr.

Per *Sachsen*, from Bremen, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. von Oertzen, Rev. and Mrs. J. Hind, Messrs. J. Howell, C. Badenhop, M. Paetow, D. Schaible, P. Schuele, Chr. Mueller, C. F. de Carvalho, E. Greacan, E. Weruecke, H. Wolf, Rev. Paul Quong, Messrs. Dan Teng, Wee Juan, Herm. Jannicke, S. Simonson, A. Schreiber, H. Schweizer, J. Saunders, Mr. and Mrs. Goldstein and child, Mr. and Mrs. Clippetz, Mr. A. Levinson and family, Mrs. von Reiffenstahl, Messrs. McKinley and Engel, Misses M. Croall, E. Hamper, K. Kuers, W. Berchter, Kammermann, and K. Clara; for Japan, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Warren and children, Messrs. J. P. Warren, W. Oliver Hall, W. Cobitz, S. Eichelberg, Mrs. Hahn and 2 children, Mrs. Chapman and child, Misses Ritson, Nott, Gregg, W. Wilson, Jex Blake, Stevenson, King Wilkinson, Silvie Hall, and Reader; for Shanghai, Mr. F. Bornemann, Consul Schnitzler, Dr. Ackermann, Baron von Lerchenfeldt, Mr. H. C. Muenter, Mr. and Mrs. Adolf Voigt, Messrs. Luigi di Luca, O. Groninger, P. Heinevetter, Fr. Mende, J. Hommel, Rev. Naughton, Dr. E. Starmer, Rev. Dr. Swallow, Messrs. W. Vine, W. Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. J. Anson and children, Mr. J. G. Liddell, Mr. and Mrs. McConnell and child, Messrs. A. E. Holmes and J. Jaspersen, Dr. and Mrs. Greig and child, Rev. Miskelly, Messrs. A. Bellmann, Joh. Dostert, W. Fritzen, R. Poetter, Dr. H. Guenther, Mr. H. Stabb, Mr. and Mrs. J. Falke, Messrs. O. Broedemann, R. Liebschner, O. Schober, Th. Regener, C. Limons, M. Schwartd, and J. Mika, Misses E. Hawkes, Ane K. Nielsen, Ellen K. M. Nielsen, Karen M. R. Nielsen, Barnes, McIntyre, Abercrombie, Scholey, Whyte, Harre, von Malmberg, Hattrem, F. Edwards, Mrs. L. Lindberg, Mrs. Maercker, Mrs. Cranston, Mrs. Gande and children, Mrs. Astill, Mrs. Meesh and children, and Mrs. T. Stanley and children.

Per *Devawongse*, from Bangkok, Mr. Hallen.

Per *Glenartney*, from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Hillman.

Per *Pyrrhus*, from Glasgow, &c., Messrs. Morgan and Banks.

Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Lovatt, Miss Lovatt, and Mrs. Prentice.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Messrs. Tomas Alverdi, Germero Alonso Cunillas, Rathbone, Luis Linia, Juan M. Gonety, Miss Gonety, Messrs. Anestari Romentania, Roman Madiuista, Julian Boscare, Elias Balistri, Mrs. Elvira Vymatas de Batheres, Mrs. Francesco Garilla and 3 children, Mrs. Maromes Landeta and 3 children, Messrs. Fermin Altyz, James Fitzgerald, W. G. Diaz, Nobeto Galley, Mrs. Glyceria Acme and child, Mrs. Consula Godia, Mrs. Yngatia Echanania and 2 children, Capt. Hogg, Messrs. Murphy, Natio Castanes, Bafour Lees, D. Gillies, Florencia de Arawa, Don Landovil, Baldinero Marina, Domingo Chacanaligin, F. C. Miller, General Fuemis Jadinies, Mrs. Matilda Jadinies, Miss Angelo Jadinies, Miss Pilas Jadinies, Capt. Antonio Jadinies, Mrs. Concepcion Jadinies, Capt. Fanstein Leverai, Messrs. Vertia N. de Levari, Blanca Levari, Mr. Ciprian Anamya, Mr. and Mrs. Fedrico Momus, Capt. Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. Fuentes and 2 children, Messrs. Jose Marcos, Tomas Torres Penian, Jose Binghœs, Francisco Masha Bea, Jose M. Levilla, Angel Boscaro, and Pedro Moreno Romero.

Per *Omi Maru*, from Thursday Island, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson and children.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Messrs. J. A. Thomas, J. Hilder, H. Raspe, R. Gutierrez, and E. Rossel, for Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Wurtz; for Bombay, Messrs. S. S. Busrai and R. Viccaji; for Marseilles, Dr. Ramon Marinas, Messrs. A. Figueroa, V. Sangrador, A. Malumbres, G. M. Benito, J. F. Navarro, M. Martinez, V. Varona, Capt. and Mrs. Camus and daughter; for Marseilles or Gibraltar, Messrs. M. Simon, G. Gil, A. Cristobal, N. Catalan, L. Inchausti, R. Rodriguez, E. Galiles,

J. Cardona, and J. Aranda; for Gibraltar, Messrs. R. de Hurriaga, Antonio Escoin, Mr. and Mrs. S. Neira and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. F. Sardina; for London, Mr. T. Wm. Cavendish, Comdr. J. H. Robertson, Lieut. W. Thomas, R. N. E., Comdr. Spencer V. Y. de Horsey, R. N., Lieut. John O. Plumer, R. N., Mr. W. Swinnoch; for London via Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Harrison and child. From Yokohama for London, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Murphy, Mr. W. Pickering; for Marseilles, Mr. G. Mudge; for Venice, Messrs. L. Perrin and T. C. Jenkins; for Colombo, Mr. A. H. Heath. From Nagasaki for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Fujise; for Colombo, Surgeon-Major and Mrs. R. L. H. Macleod. From Shanghai for Bombay, Mrs. Lamont; for Marseilles, Mrs. Sansom, and Mr. Gordon; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Hagqvist, Mr. and Mrs. Macnair and 2 children, Messrs. Zothmer and Grorman.

Per *Chusan*, for Shanghai from London, Messrs. M. Griffith, E. Smith, J. Martin, G. Harding, A. Holland, A. Bach, J. Orr, J. Alderton, A. Selwyn, A. Sykes, Misses Watts and Metcalf; from Marseilles, Capt. Pottinger, Messrs. Tucker and Finch; from Singapore, Messrs. Wright and R. Baretton.

Per *Java*, from London for Shanghai, Mr. R. A. Cousins, and Miss E. J. Lucham; for Yokohama, Mrs. G. X. Bishop, and Miss G. Bishop.

Per *Sungkiang*, for Manila, Mrs. Sanger, Mrs. Dickson, Miss Niar, Miss Balinte, Mrs. Villar, Mrs. Weidman, Mr. and Mrs. Natrudad, Messrs. Fife, W. S. Ryan, T. C. Jenkins, L. Perrin, Ghadsky, Barretto, Losada, Oazuvel, Cativao, W. Willner, J. Graham, Wm. Young, T. W. Coakley, C. Villamil, and Master Fernandez.

Per *Rosetta*, from Hongkong for Kobe, Messrs. J. N. Dubash, C. A. Camroodin, and D. A. Zynulabedeen. For Yokohama, Mr. G. Kati, Mr. and Mrs. Munro. From London, Mr. Tuthill, Mrs. and Miss Bishop. From Marseilles, Mr. Willner. From Penang, Mr. Wilson.

Per *Kutsang*, for Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Lum Tai Yu and child, Messrs. Sung Chuen Hing and Chan King Shing; for Calcutta, Miss Nellie J. Lewis, and Mrs. F. M. E. Ensell.

Per *Sachsen*, for Shanghai from Bremen, Mrs. Lindberg, Messrs. O. Groninger, P. Heinevetter, Fred. Mende, Joh. Hommel, Miss Nielsen, Messrs. O. Broedermann, R. Liebrshner, O. Schober, and Mrs. Edlers Omunn; from Southampton, Miss E. Hawkes, Mrs. Cranston, Mrs. Gande, Miss Barnes, Rev. Naughton, Dr. E. Starmer, Miss M. Intyre, Rev. Dr. Swallow, Misses Abercrombie, Scholey, Whyte, Mr. W. Vine, Mrs. Astill, Messrs. W. Clifford, J. Anson, Miss Harre, Messrs. J. G. Sirdell, McConnell, Mrs. Meerch, Mr. A. Holmies, Miss v. Malmberg, Mr. J. Jaspersen, Mrs. Stormley, and Miss Edwards; from Genoa, Mr. F. Borne, Consul Schnitzler, Mrs. Marcker, Dr. Ackermann, Miss Lercheufeldt, Mr. H. C. Munter, Dr. Greig, Rev. Merkelly, Miss Holtzen, Messrs. A. Bellmann, Joh. Dostert, W. Fritzen, R. Potter, Dr. H. Gunther, H. Stabb, and Joseph Mika; from Naples, Messrs. Adolf Voigt and Luigi di Luca; from Antwerp, Messrs. Th. Regenitor, E. Simons, and M. Schwartd; from Colombo, Mr. Falke; from Hongkong, Mrs. J. H. Meira Costa and children, Messrs. Otto Hille, C. Brodersen, H. Summers, Mrs. Baptista, Rev. B. C. Waters, Lieut.-Col. Valliere, Mrs. S. J. Bangal and children, Messrs. H. Lyons, T. Herbert, G. H. Williams, T. O. Radford, J. H. Edgar, R. A. McCulloch, and C. F. Lack. For Yokohama from Hongkong, Mrs. Lo Si.

Per *Hohenzollern*, for Yokohama from Bremen, Mrs. Hahn, Mr. Carl Hahn and child; from Southampton, Miss Jex Blake, Mr. W. Oliver Hall, Misses Silvie Hall and King Wilkinson; from Genoa, Mr. S. Eichelberg. For Kobe from Southampton, Misses Gregg, Ritzon, Mr. J. P. Warren, Rev. and Mrs. C. T. Warren and children, and Miss E. Wynne Wilson; from Genoa, Mrs. Chapman and child. For Nagasaki from Southampton, Misses Nolt and Stevenson.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, for Kobe, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Tournier, Messrs. N. d'Ameizenda, Marshall, Nehara, Yoshida, Suguri, Hoga, Tachihara, and Tumber.